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April 2000 Vol. 1 Issue 6

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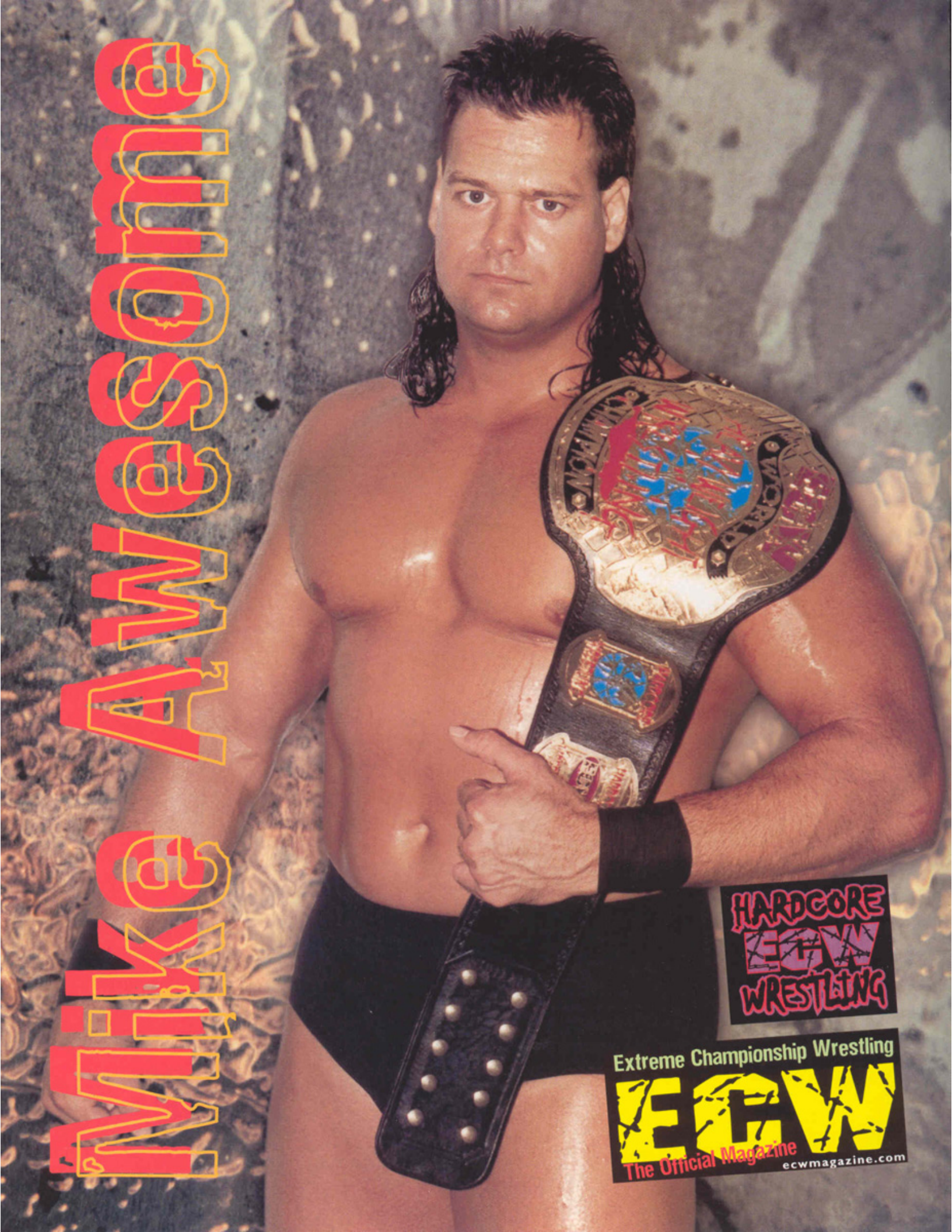
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CONTENTS

ECW Magazine April 2000 Volume I Issue 6

features

16 Acclaim Gets Extreme
ECW announces Hardcore Revolution and partnership with Acclaim.
by Dave Scherer

22 Exit Light, Enter Night
ECW fans wake up to Sandman – again.
by S. Connor

28 ECW's Year in Review
Some wrestlers leave, some return and RVD holds onto TV title.
by Dave Scherer

34 Bald to the Bone
Tony DeVito and Angel – known as The Baldies – unite to oppose New Jack.
by Dave Scherer

42 November To Remember 1999
ECW ends 1999 with extreme pay-per-view.
by Dave Scherer

46 Guilty As Charged 2000
ECW kicks off new millennium with hardcore competition.
by Jason Scales

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For more ECW news, visit the federation's official site: http://www.ecwwrestling.com
For all in-depth wrestling information, check out: http://www.wrestleline.com

departments

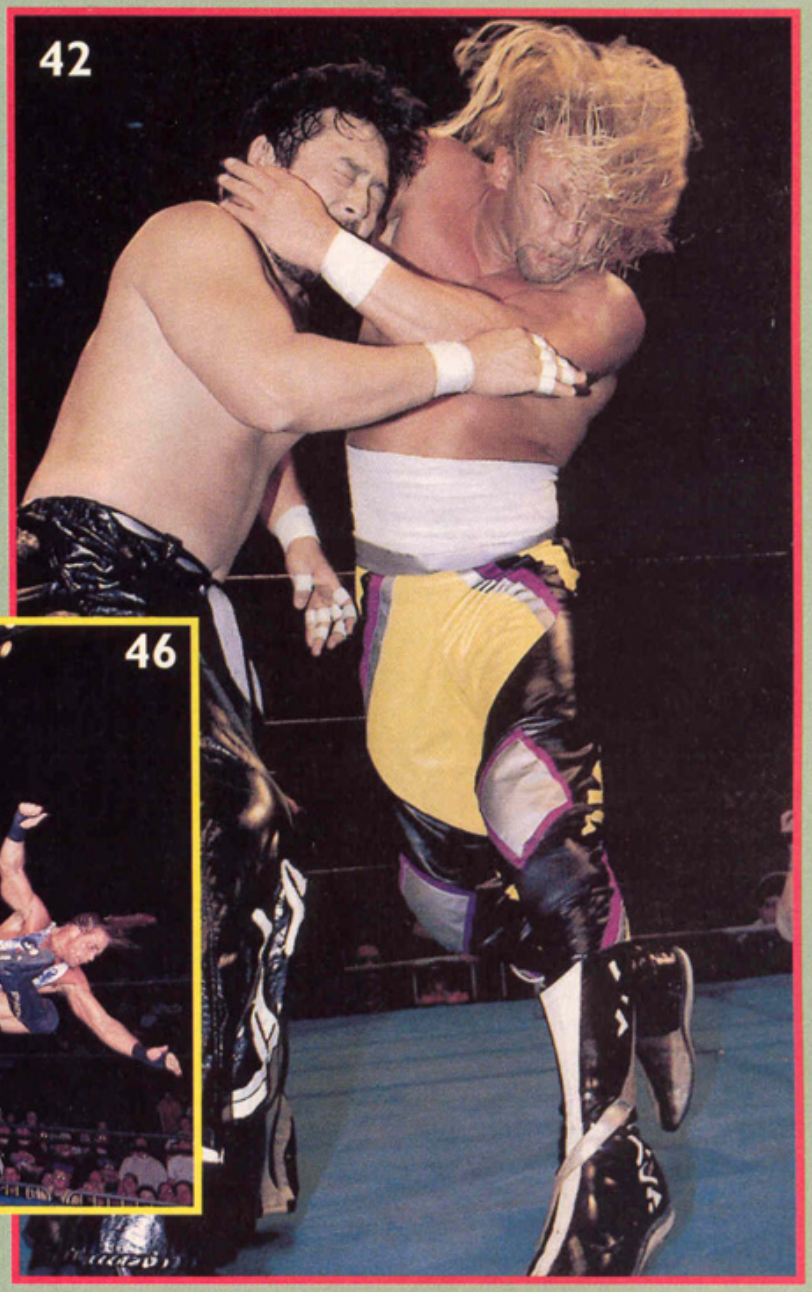
6 The Whole F'n Mailbag

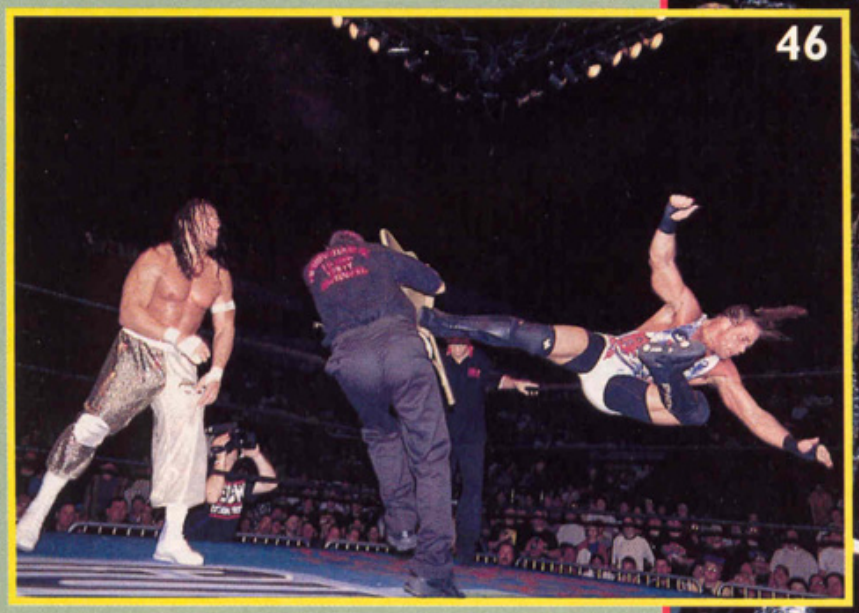
8 News and Rumors

38 TV and Event Schedules

52 Wrestler of the Month

56 ECW Talent Up Close





columns

4 **In Styles** by Joey Styles

26 **The Extreme Intellectual** by Cyrus

50 **Bumps** by Donny Laible

54 **The Whistleblower** by Bill Alfonso

Cover photo of Sabu courtesy of Acclaim

in styles

by Joey Styles

Joey Styles is the voice of ECW's television programs and live pay-per-view events. Styles also manages ***www.ECWwrestling.com*** *and the* ***ECW Hardcore Hotline at (900) 737-4ECW.***

TRAVELING WITH A VIRUS

As the voice of Extreme Championship Wrestling, I have the pleasure of traveling the United States and performing in front of a live crowd in a different city almost every week. While it is true that I love what I do and am finally living my 15-year dream, calling wrestling matches is not the most entertaining part of my job.

What brings the biggest smile to my face is spending time with the performers that comprise the ECW roster. While I have not been "in the business" long enough to pen a book like **Mick Foley**'s autobiography, "Have A Nice Day" (cheap plug for my friend ... as if he needs my help), I am certainly on my way.

You can't imagine what fun spending quality time with **Cyrus**, my pay-per-view color commentator and world class pain in the ass, can be.

You can't imagine what fun spending quality time with Cyrus, my pay-per-view color commentator and world class pain in the ass, can truly be.

My Saturday morning in beautiful Nashville, Tenn., begins like any other: With a cup of coffee and a workout. After showering and dressing, I attempt to leave the Marriott (my home away from home), but run into Cyrus in the lobby. Cyrus persuades me that as fellow office members (what office?), we should discuss business over breakfast and then head to the airport.

Canadian to English translation: I am too cheap to rent a car, and am going to take a free ride from you after conning you into paying for my meal as well.

As we leave the restaurant and get into my car, Cyrus proceeds to wrap a Marriott washcloth around his knee and affix it there with white athletic tape. As I look on dumbfounded, he explains to me that ECW mistakenly issued his return ticket for Sunday and that moving it up one day without a Saturday night stay would quadruple the fare. Therefore, he called the airline and explained that he is a poor professional wrestler who injured his knee, is in excruciating pain, cannot wrestle tonight and must get home immediately.

"They didn't buy that steaming load of crap, did they?" I screamed.

"Of course they did, **Joey Styles**, and the compassionate and generous American idiots at *(name deleted)* Airlines even upgraded yours truly to first class at no charge."

He and I did not utter another word to each other for the remainder of the ride, but Cyrus was snickering all the way to the airport. When we arrived, he immediately started grimacing and dragging his "injured" leg behind him like **Kevin Spacey** as Verbal Kint in "The Usual Suspects."

Enraged, I went my own way thinking about my flight home in coach eating a protein bar while Cyrus would be sipping a nice Chianti in first class. Just as I thought I could not get any angrier, I was almost run down by a skycap driving a cart through the airport. As I turned to get a glimpse of the loudly beeping, less than aerodynamic vehicle that almost maimed me, I was not at all surprised to see the all-too-familiar smiling face of the only passenger who yelled, "God bless America ... Winnipeg here I come!"

Oh yes, being on the road with ECW is more fun than one person should be entitled to. ecw

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the whole f'n mailbag

compiled by brad perkins

FAN CRIES FOWL OVER WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

I saw that Rob Van Dam was named the wrestler of the year, and I'll agree, he's dynamic, but I wanted to put in my own personal choice ... Raven. My first look at Raven was in World Championship Wrestling. I loved him then, but seeing him in Extreme Championship Wrestling brings me a new respect for a true talent. I never realized how watered down the Raven character was in WCW. ECW is where Raven truly shines. His microphone skills are unequaled, his persona is one of a kind and each time he steps in the ring, it's electric. Your cover story on him in the February 2000 issue was great. He is a living legend of the hardcore persuasion.

Susan Wright
MsMetal@webtv.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

I received two ECW show tapes for my birthday. I'm 37 years old and a lifelong wrestling fan, unlike a lot of people these days who watch it because it's the "in" thing to do (shades of the 1980s). Anyway, I'd never seen an ECW show until yesterday, when I watched the last Anarchy Rulz (with Taz's title loss to Mike Awesome) and House Party 1999 (when Public Enemy came back and Sid Vicious beat the hell out of Skull Von Krush). This is what wrestling is supposed to be. All the ECW wrestlers, when it gets down to it, have to perform in the ring without a lot of fancy pyrotechnics and clever catchphrases. I'm not going to tell you that I'll never watch another World Wrestling Federation or World Championship Wrestling show because I am a wrestling fan, but ECW is now No. 1 as far as I'm concerned. I hope the company grows to the point that it's able to hold on to talent that might otherwise go to the WWF or WCW. I think it's a shame what's happened to The Dudley Boyz in the WWF. I just hope they don't try to make a clown out of Taz. The man has class, in addition to being a real wrestler.

Brian Jones
superbaj@gateway.net
Brad says: You've obviously never met Taz. He's not called the most miserable person on Earth for nothing.

FROM THE HOME OFFICE IN SOUTH PHILADELPHIA ...

I have been an avid fan of ECW since the first pay-per-view, and I have compiled a list of my 10 favorite things. These are things that we do not get from any other company. Here they are, in no particular order ...

- No disqualification matches
- If people come to the ring and start to brawl, the bell rings and it's a match.
- Rob Van Dam
- Ladders, chairs, tables, thumbtacks, Singapore canes, staple guns, etc.
- Blood
- Sabu
- Matches end in a pin or submission
- The music
- No matter where in the building you sit, at some point you have a front row seat.
- The best color commentators on Earth: Joey Styles, Joel Gertner and Cyrus.

Heather Lumbert
Jackson, Mich.
MeanMama29@webtv.net

MAKE UP YOUR DAMN MIND

I wrote something about Steve Corino in the February 2000 issue of ECW Magazine, but that was all BS. Corino is a punk who couldn't wrestle if his life depended on it. He's a no-talent, Limp-Bizkit-hating, whining piece of trash. So screw Corino and screw old school wrestling.

Travis Woodson
TWOOD43715@aol.com

MISSING YOU IN MASSACHUSETTS

I am 13 years old, I live in Massachusetts and I have been a fan of ECW for four years. It is the greatest wrestling on Earth. I have seen ECW grow from a small, underground federation to a large, powerful organization. I am very upset, however, that ECW has not had any shows in Massachusetts lately. I have attended several great house shows at the Palladium in Worcester, Mass. I miss the action of Rob Van Dam jumping into the crowd and Sabu doing triple jump moonsaults on wrestlers through tables right in front of me. So, I am asking ECW to come back to Massachusetts like it used to every three months. I and all the other ECW fans in Massachusetts will be very happy if you come back. Also, if it isn't too much to ask, bring ECW hardcore TV back to WUNI in Boston because I miss that, too.

Derek K.
Westminster, Mass.

LOVE THAT HARDCORE

I've been a wrestling fan since I was 5, now I'm 20. I loved watching Dusty Rhodes, Abdullah The Butcher, Magnum T.A., The Von Erichs, The Freebirds, and the list goes on and on. Thank you, Paul E. Heyman. You put the wrestling back in pro wrestling. The wrestlers I mentioned *wrestled*, they just didn't jump people every match like on the Monday shows, which is why I've been a fan of ECW since the first pay-per-view I watched. Paul E., you've brought back the excitement to wrestling. In those other two bitch federations, nothing happens. The matches fans want to see never get set up. But when I watch ECW, you never know who's gonna fight whom. The fans get matches they want to see. On TNN, Mike Awesome was battling Spike Dudley, and the next thing you know, Awesome lost the title to Tanaka. It was great. Whenever I talk to wrestling fans, I tell them to stop wasting their time with the chumps when they can watch the champs.

Miguel Vega
Miguelbose@aol.com

ONE HEROIC BIRD

I'm writing to tell Raven that he is my hero. I someday hope to be just like him. I look up to him, and have been looking up to him, for several years now. After reading about him in the last issue of the magazine (February 2000), I saw how similar Raven and I are. I hope to see more of Raven in the future of the magazine.

Matt Jones
RavenZombie@aol.com

WE GET LETTERS

Got something to say? Keep your letters short and please include your full name, address and daytime phone number for verification (address and phone number will not be published). Send your letters to:

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NEWS & RUMORS

'AMERICAN DREAM' ALIVE AND WELL

On Dec. 2, 1999, in Atlanta at The Tabernacle, Steve Corino spotted legend "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes in the crowd. Corino and Jack Victory taunted Rhodes until the former world champion hit the ring to give his famous bionic elbow to Corino and Victory. Rhodes promised it was just not a one-time deal and that he would be back in Extreme Championship Wrestling.

Video Game Ads Too Extreme

ECW's partnership with video game maker Acclaim is apparently too extreme for some people.

Advertisements for Acclaim's campaign for the ECW Hardcore Revolution video game – which appear on pages 10 through 15 of this publication – have been rejected by various magazines.

The photographs and words used in the advertisements have been deemed too controversial by some publications. Words such as "Real F'n Fans" and "Real F'n Hard" running with pictures of Francine and New Jack are at issue.

Fans can decide for themselves on Feb. 17, 2000 – the day the video game goes on sale – if the game itself is too hardcore.

AND THE GRAMMY GOES TO ... ECW?

Motörhead's take on "Enter Sandman" from ECW's Extreme Music CD was nominated for a Grammy award for the Best Metal single of 1999. Other nominees include Black Sabbath's "Iron Man," Ministry's "Bad Blood," Nine Inch Nails' "Starf**ers Inc.," and Rob Zombie's "Superbeast."

SANDMAN'S A HIT

The wrestling return of Sandman (formerly Hak in WCW) to his old stomping ground, ECW Arena, on Nov. 27, 1999, drew ECW's biggest crowd ever in that building. The official attendance was 1,775, but more than 700 fans were turned away because there was no room left inside.

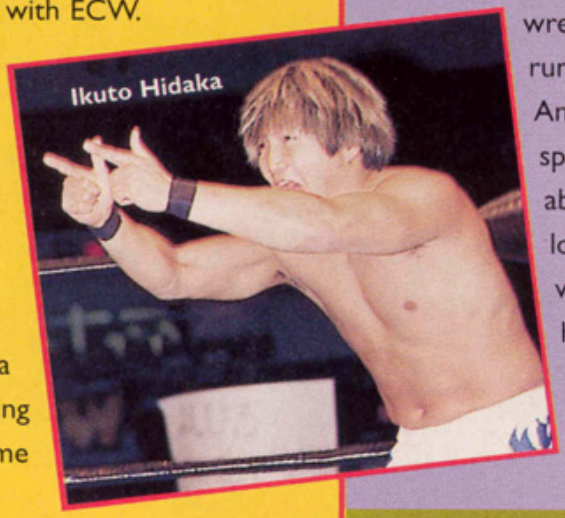
Sandman

TWO TALENTS ADDED

Extreme Championship Wrestling added two new faces to its roster in December, signing Super Calo and Ikuto Hidaka.

Super Calo, who did not get much of an opportunity to show his skills in World Championship Wrestling, agreed to a new deal with ECW. A gifted luchador, Calo was lost in the shuffle of masked Mexican wrestlers and, after suffering an injury, was let go by WCW.

Hidaka, a gifted athlete, came to ECW from Japan's Battlearts promotion. Hidaka is a quick high-flyer with shoot fighting ability who has competed full time for only a couple of years.

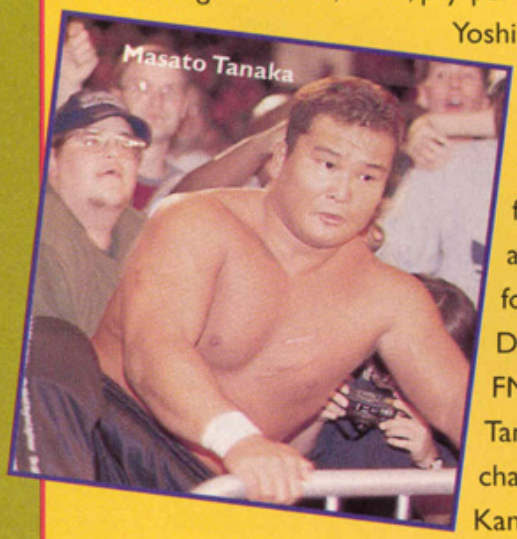

Ikuto Hidaka

THE KID IS ALL RIGHT

A rumor that World Wrestling Federation superstar Shawn Michaels might appear at ECW shows surfaced in December 1999, causing a stir in ECW circles. Michaels, known as The Heartbreak Kid, retired from wrestling after back surgery and runs a wrestling school in San Antonio, Texas. Michaels had spoken with Justin Credible about working with ECW as long as some of his trainees would get work. Michaels, however, is reportedly under contract with the WWF, and any appearance would have to be cleared by that federation.

ECW, FMW AGREE TO DEAL

The most hardcore promotions in the United States and Japan recently agreed to trade talent. ECW first sent Raven, Tommy Dreamer, Francine and Balls Mahoney to Japan to compete on Frontier Martial-arts Wrestling's Nov. 22, 1999, pay-per-view. Super Crazy, Yoshihiro Tajiri, Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten also went over to the company that features barbed wire and exploding matches for the weekend of Dec. 10, 1999. FMW sent Masato Tanaka and its hardcore champion, Kintaro Kanemura, to ECW for the last two weeks of December. It remains possible more FMW talent will come to ECW in 2000, with a larger push likely for Tanaka.

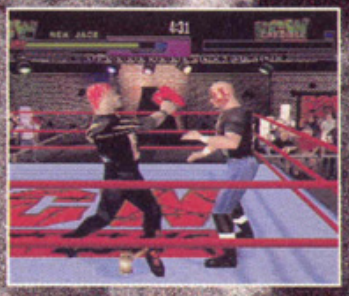

Masato Tanaka

THEY DID IT ALL FOR THE RATINGS

ECW ran an angle with the rock band Limp Bizkit on Nov. 20, 1999 in Peoria, Ill. Both companies were running shows in the building (with Bizkit using the sold-out, 8,000-seat arena and ECW in the adjacent annex). During the concert, ECW's Steve Corino joined Limp Bizkit lead singer Fred Durst on-stage. Staying in his ECW character, Corino lambasted rock and roll, and ran down Limp Bizkit until Durst told Corino that old school sucks and hardcore wrestling was the way to go. Axl Rotten, Balls Mahoney and New Jack then came onto Limp Bizkit's stage and pummeled Corino.

MTV news covered the story, and Durst played the altercation up as if it was a shoot, but it wasn't. ECW and Limp Bizkit reportedly are in negotiations to work together again.

REAL F'N F



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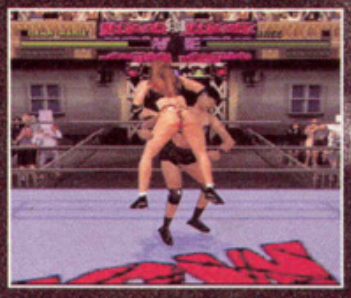

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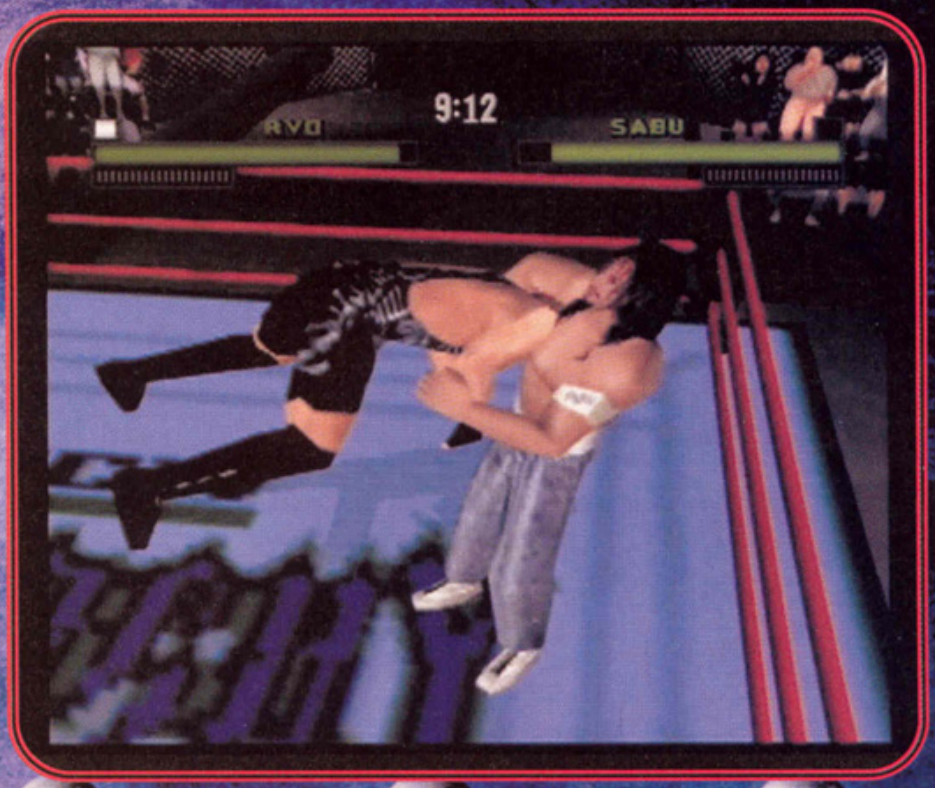
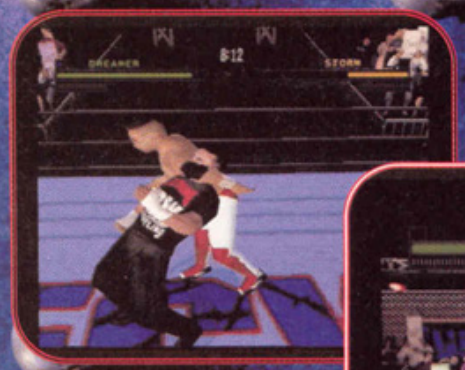
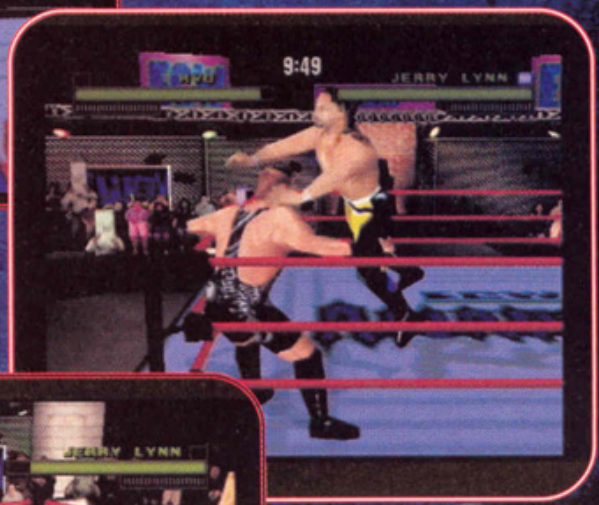
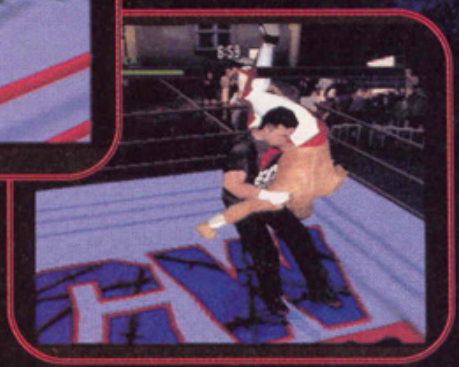








Scenes from Acclaim's Hardcore Revolution video game

ECW announces Hardcore Revolution and partnership with Acclaim

by Dave Scherer

Nov. 18, 1999, will go down as a banner day in the history of Extreme Championship Wrestling. ECW not only signed a deal to create a new video game, it took on a business partner as well.

ECW and Acclaim Entertainment, Inc. – a worldwide, interactive entertainment company – announced that not only would the two companies team up to create a groundbreaking video game, Hardcore Revolution, but also that Acclaim would become a minority owner of ECW and will be the exclusive, long-term software licensee of the promotion.

The deal had been in the works for months. It was kept secret because Acclaim had a contract with the World Wrestling Federation that expired on Nov. 15, 1999. On Nov. 18, that silence was broken.

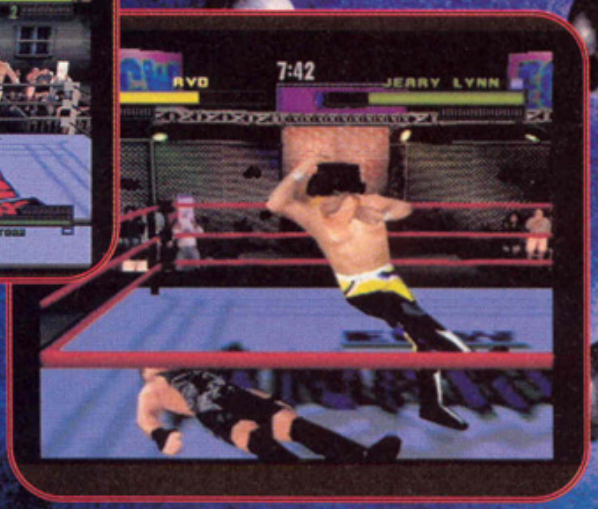
Hardcore Revolution

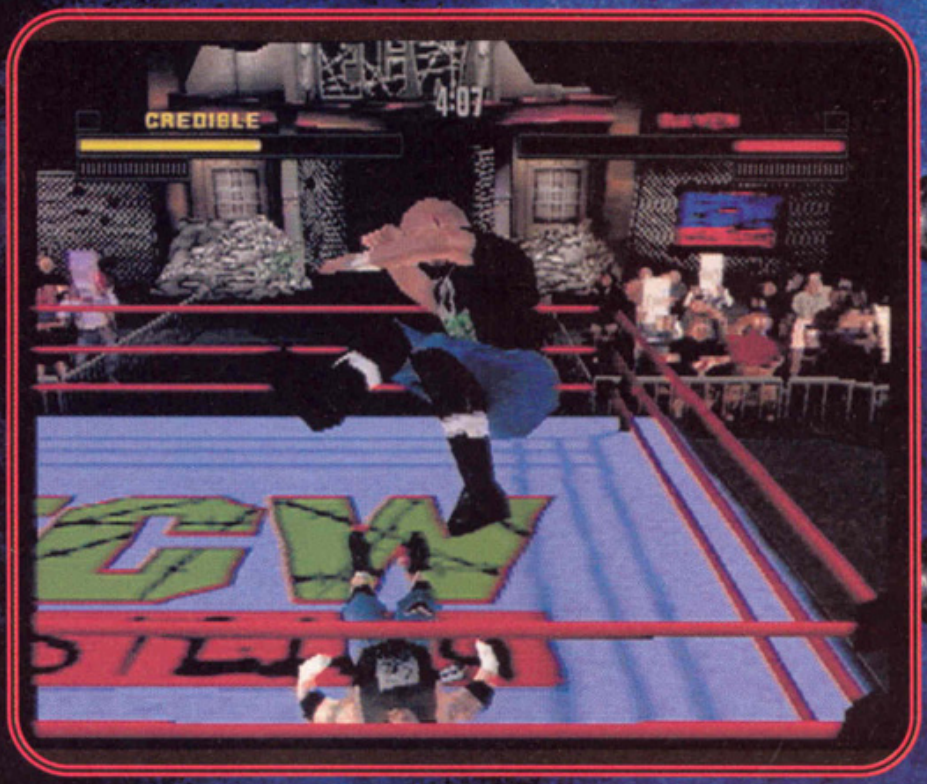
Hardcore Revolution – available on Feb. 17, 2000, on all of the major gaming systems (Dreamcast, Playstation, Nintendo 64 and Game Boy) – will be different from any other wrestling game.

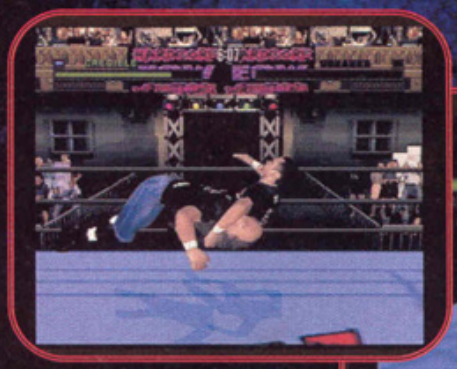
Acclaim promises to stay true to the ECW style of hardcore wrestling. Hardcore Revolution will be the first wrestling video game to be rated "M," for mature audiences. The game is designed for audiences 17 years and older, since it will contain colorful language and very hardcore action, including an option to replace the ring ropes with barbed wire.

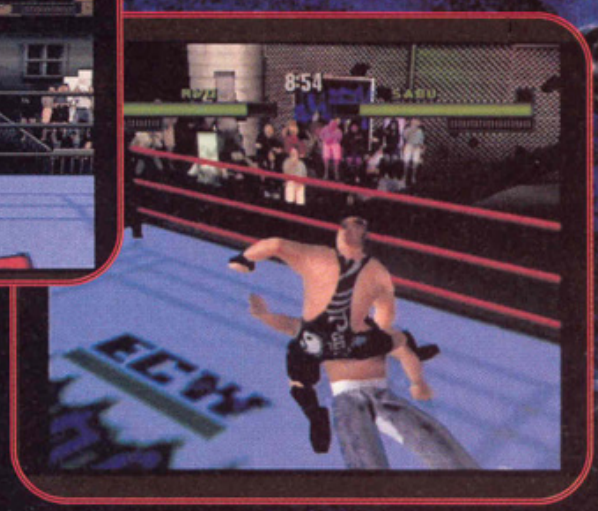
ECW personalities including Rob Van Dam, Mike Awesome, Sabu, Tommy Dreamer, Raven, Francine, The Impact Players, Jerry Lynn and Joey Styles will be featured in the game.

"Players will go wild over the outrageous, edgy content and faster game play of ECW Hardcore Revolution," said Mike Archer, video game developer. "We expect our ECW games will be the most highly anticipated wrestling titles in the market."







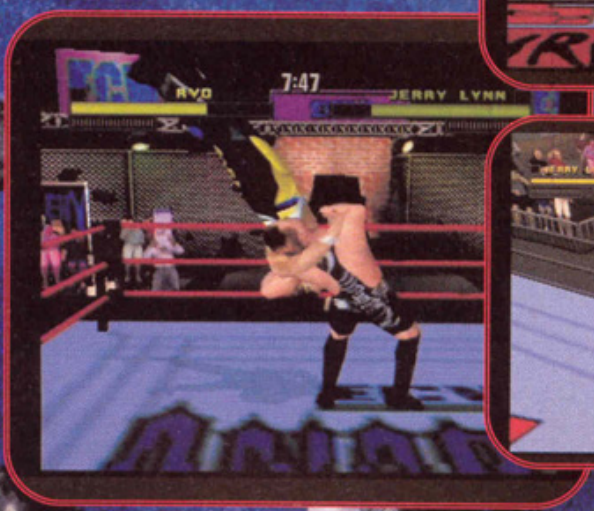


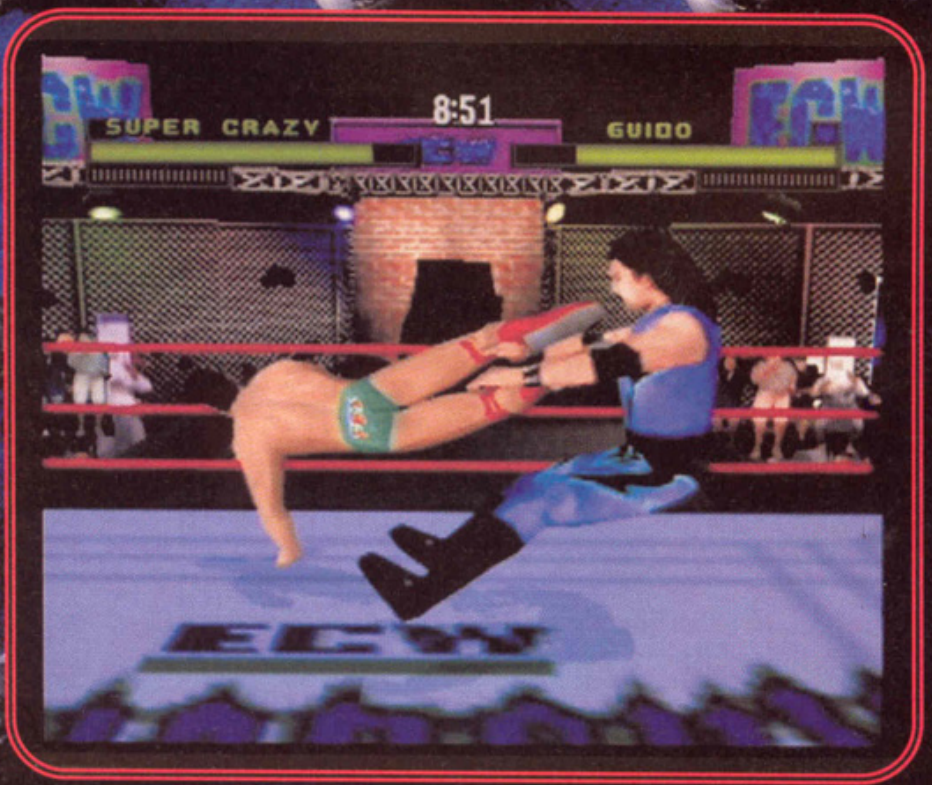
Acclaim part of ECW family

Acclaim has also taken an equity stake in ECW. As a minority owner in the company,

Acclaim has made it clear it plans to promote the game and ECW on the strength of a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign. The advertising will target wrestling fans and will help to heighten the awareness of ECW on a national level. In addition to

Hardcore Revolution is a 'must-buy game' according to ECW owner Paul Heyman.





marketing the game, Acclaim is expected to advertise ECW's weekly show on TNN.

Since November 1999, Acclaim has promoted the wrestling federation and Hardcore Revolution on its Web site (www.acclaim.com) and on a site designed specifically for the game (www.hardcorerevolution.com).

"We are thrilled to secure an equity interest in ECW and to bring its cutting-edge, over-the-top wrestling to the video game market," said Gregory Fischbach, president and CEO of Acclaim. "ECW has a reputation as the most innovative and underground league. Featuring world-class wrestlers, ECW is at the forefront of the wrestling craze, which an estimated 30 million homes tune into each month. ECW has all the ingredients video game wrestling fans crave."

Paul Heyman, ECW's owner, is also thrilled with the deal.

"Acclaim is the most experienced, creative and successful interactive entertainment partner when it comes to producing wrestling titles," said Heyman.

"We are excited to partner with Acclaim – a company that has sold over 12 million wrestling games and has a dedicated internal development team that knows and loves wrestling. If you are a fan of wrestling, this will be a must-buy game title." ecw

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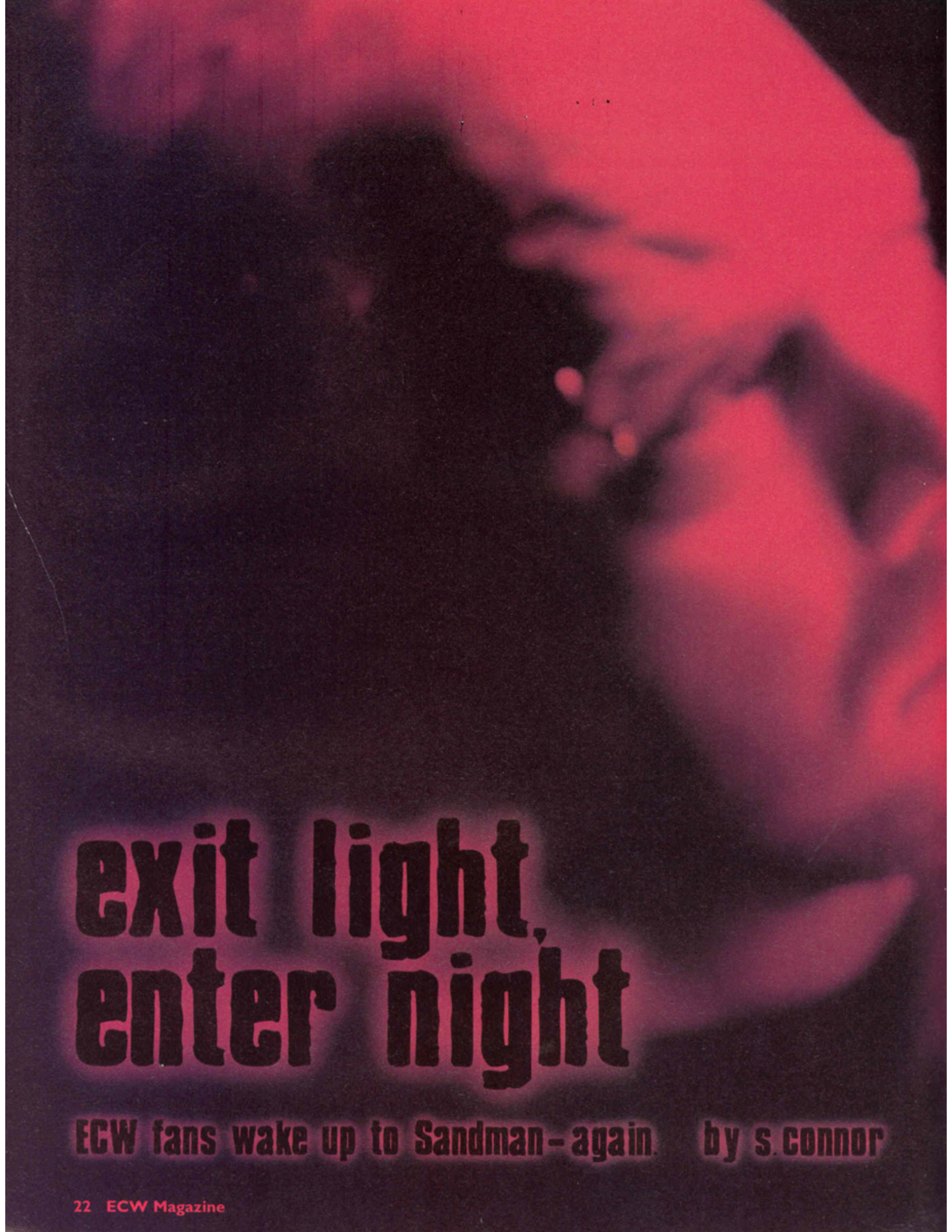


exit light, enter night

ECW fans wake up to Sandman – again. by S. Connor

'The business has taught me to keep my mouth shut and keep my eyes and ears wide open. You never know who is going to stab you in the back.'

Since Sandman returned to Extreme Championship Wrestling in October 1999, fans have renewed their fondness for the beer chugging, Kendo stick wielding hardcore icon. "Enter Sandman" is once again a familiar prelude on ECW cards.

Sandman left ECW in August 1998 and tried to make a name for himself as Hak in World Championship Wrestling. Fed up with how he was being used, Sandman followed Raven's lead and returned to the promotion where he first honed his hardcore skills. In the following interview, Sandman talks about the two companies, his impact on wrestling and what he wants to accomplish in his second run in ECW.

Q. Why did you leave ECW in August 1998?

A. Wrestling was really hot at that point and the ratings were going through the roof. ECW didn't have national television exposure. If there ever was going to be a time to jump, it was the best time to go.

Q. Why did you leave WCW in October 1999?

A. When Raven asked for his release, I called Eric Bischoff [former vice president of WCW] the next day and asked for my release. I didn't like what was going on with the company either. They had me call out [Bam Bam] Bigelow; they had me call out Goldberg. All I was doing was making the top guys look good. I didn't get my release until more than a month later. But anybody in their right mind – with the ratings I was pulling for that company – would never even think about releasing me.

Q. What was it like when you returned to the ECW Arena in Philadelphia on Oct. 23, 1999?

A. Lights off, lights on. I had so much electricity running through my body I could have lit up New York City. It was awesome. The pop was unbelievable. I was so jacked up for my return I actually couldn't hear when I was out there. So the next weekend when I showed up in Dayton (Ohio), I enjoyed it a little bit more because I wasn't so tense.

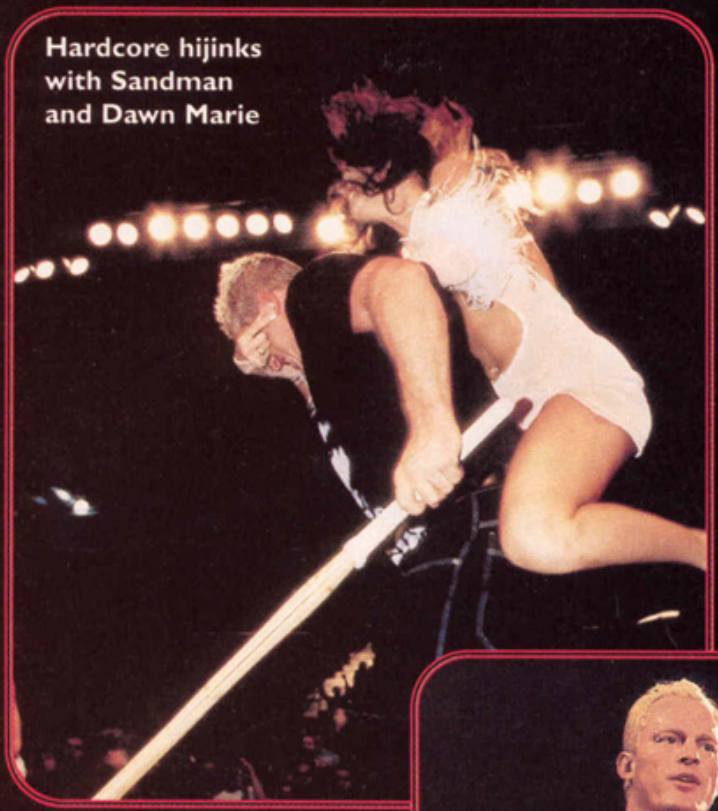
Q. Did ECW's television deal with TNN influence your decision to return?

A. That was another good thing about coming back. I figured, if Raven's going to go back, I'm going to go back too. We can really jump start that show.

'I'm the guy who sits at the end of the bar drinking beer. Everybody knows someone like me. It's a timeless character. Sandman is just me. Drinking beer, smoking cigarettes – that's what I do.'

Q. When and where did you start wrestling?

A. I started in 1989 with the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance, which Joel Goodheart owned. I went to his wrestling school and started wrestling on his matches. He had a little federation going – his first year running maybe eight shows, second year maybe 10 to 12, then up to 25 a year. He got bought out by Tod Gordon around 1992 and Tod Gordon renamed it Eastern Championship Wrestling. When he ran out of money, Paul E. [Heyman] took it over.



Hardcore hijinks with Sandman and Dawn Marie

Q. Where did you get the name Sandman?

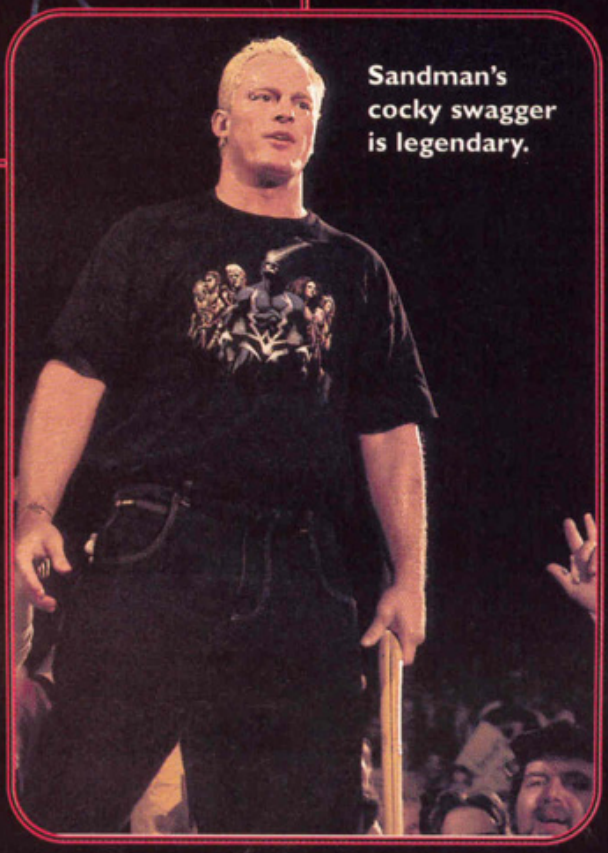
A. My first promoter was driving down the road one day in Philadelphia and he saw a 'Mr. Sandman Boxspring and Mattress' billboard. I started with Mr. Sandman. I didn't like the Mr. so I changed it to just Sandman.

Q. How would you describe yourself to someone who's never met you?

A. I'm the guy who sits at the end of the bar drinking beer. That's why they [fans] relate to me. Everybody knows somebody like me. If strangers come in and they want to play pool or something like that, then you beat them up and throw them out. It's a timeless character. Sandman is just me. Drinking beer, smoking cigarettes – that's what I do.

Q. Have you always wanted to be a professional wrestler?

A. Ever since I was 4 years old. When other kids wanted to be firemen, doctors, cops, I wanted to be a wrestler. I live my life's dream everyday and get paid a s---load of money to do it and I'm happy as hell. I grew up in the Northeast from 1968 to 1978. All I saw was the WWF. I watched Ivan Koloff, Superstar Billy Graham, Bruno Sammartino. But I never really wanted to be like any of them. I just wanted to be like myself.



Sandman's cocky swagger is legendary.

Q. Did you participate in sports while growing up?

A. In high school I was the captain of my teams and got nine letters each year in football, basketball and track. So I was an athlete, actually. Believe it or not!

Q. Do you think your peers respect you?

A. Respect is a funny word. Respect in which way? Respect in that I can go out there and take a harder chair shot than anybody in the business, except maybe for Cactus Jack? Or respect as in going to the gym everyday, working real hard to try and make your living? There's a couple of different respects. I don't think a lot of people respect me for all three of them.

Q. Do you think you are helping shape what wrestling is today?

A. It's just me being me and I'm glad I have a forum to live my life's dream. If you want to talk about wrestlers who drink beer, like Steve Austin and me, or if you want to talk about wrestlers using Kendo sticks – what other company hasn't used a Kendo stick in the last week? Obviously something I'm doing is right, otherwise people wouldn't be copying it. I don't really get mad at that because imitation's the best form of flattery.

Q. What has the wrestling business taught you?

A. The business has taught me to keep my mouth shut and keep my eyes and ears wide open. You never know who is going to stab you in the back.

Q. Do you have any interest in politics?

A. I still plan on running for some office some day. Let's get the wrestling career out of the way first.

Q. What's your next goal in wrestling?

A. The ECW world heavyweight title. ecw

THE EXTREME INTELLECTUAL

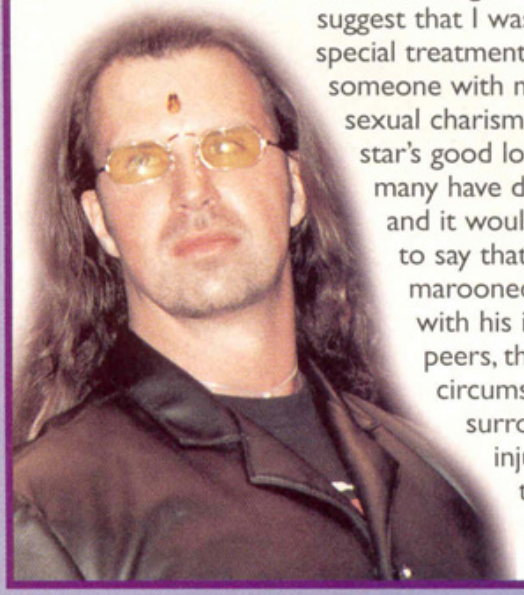
BY CYRUS

WRESTLING'S TONYA HARDING

Given my proclivity for standing up for all that is good and true in the wrestling industry, it should come as no surprise that I would take a stand and defend myself. It is sad that I, the Voice of Extreme Championship Wrestling, must defend myself against the vitriolic hatred of my broadcast colleagues who profess to be gentlemen. You see, my little darlings, having read an advance copy of **Joey Styles'** column (see page 4), it is painfully obvious that where the Extreme Intellectual is concerned, the knives are out, literary and otherwise.

Notwithstanding the fact that he is racked with insecurities (not his fault), I was surprised that Styles would distort the truth in such bombastic fashion. All great lies are based around a kernel of truth, and there is some truth to Styles' vicious lampoon, although much of it is the pathetic meandering of a wannabe columnist. Styles comes off sounding every bit a man who longs for the days when he broadcasted solo.

Styles insinuates that I "faked" a leg injury in order to get special attention at the airport. He then goes on to describe in insidious fashion how I was carried all over the airport and generally attended to like a billionaire oil sheik, while he was forced to ride coach with all the other garden variety troglodytes. If I may borrow from the great playwright **Tennessee Williams**, "What mendacity!"



While it might be factual to suggest that I was given the special treatment afforded someone with my "dark sexual charisma, and rock star's good looks," as so many have described me, and it would also be true to say that Styles was marooned in coach with his intellectual peers, the real circumstances surrounding my injury is the stuff that an "X File" is made of. Make no mistake, Styles is kayfabing all of you about the real truth. Witness my plight for yourselves, and weep if you must.

It was five in the morning in Nashville, Tenn., and after a night of producing interviews and sanctioning world title matches, I made my way out to the lonely parking lot behind the arena. Exhausted, and bearing the weight of the company on my broad shoulders, I didn't hear the sloth-footed shuffling of an oaf-like assailant who lumbered towards me, masked in the curtain of night that surrounded me.

He was clad in a ski mask and brandishing a chronic cough, wearing an ill-fitting ninja suit and holding a crowbar over his head. As he was poised to strike, the faint outline of a neck brace was visible beneath the mask. He swung at me with the crowbar, no doubt aiming for my larynx, hoping to silence the Voice of ECW.

With my Zen master-like reflexes, I executed a high kick that would make **Rob Van Dam** jealous, blocking the blow, but injuring my leg in the process.

My portly assailant then made like an overstuffed **Jeff Gillooly** and plodded off into the night, his cough audible for several hundred yards. Meanwhile, the Greatest Color Commentator in wrestling limped to his car, but not before a petrified Styles, who hid behind his rental car instead of helping me, sped by, running over my foot in the process.

When I saw Styles at the airport the next day he was unconcerned about my condition, pausing only long enough to make a snide remark about hoping I made it to the next pay-per-view.

Having made no attempt to help me during the attack, it should surprise no one that Styles would not reveal the identity of my attacker in his column. Unlike Mr. Styles, I have no compunction about revealing the assailant's name in the same charming vernacular he has become famous for.

The name of the ski mask-clad, crowbar wielding criminal is: **Joel** – Heat with the office again, but I busted **Cyrus** up like **Nancy Kerrigan** – **Gertner**.

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Dawn Marie (top) throttles Francine.

extr championship

Jerry Lynn (top) takes on Rob Van Dam.

Former ECW champ Taz is now Tazz in the World Wrestling Federation.

Extreme Championship Wrestling experienced a time of change in 1999. A few fan favorites left the promotion and a few returned. ECW on TNN debuted and the promotion took on a business partner in video game producer Acclaim. While the ECW world heavyweight title and the ECW world tag team title each changed hands a few times, Rob Van Dam successfully defended his ECW world television title all year. Read on for a detailed account of all the hardcore developments of the year.

ecw wrestling's year in review

Some wrestlers leave, some return and RVD holds onto television title

Jan. 10, 1999 – ECW holds its Guilty As Charged pay-per-view in Kissimmee, Fla. Sid Vicious makes his ECW debut by defeating John Kronus. Taz defeats Shane Douglas for the ECW world heavyweight title.

Jan. 16, 1999 – The Public Enemy makes its return to the ECW Arena in Philadelphia by answering a challenge made by The Dudley Boyz at Guilty As Charged.

Jan. 23, 1999 – The Dudley Boyz are cheered as they trash The Public Enemy in Detroit at the Michigan State Fair Coliseum.

extreme championship wrestling's year in review

Feb. 5, 1999 – Shane Douglas experiences chest pains after a match with Taz and checks into a hospital in Columbia, S.C. Doctors diagnose a viral infection.

Feb. 12, 1999 – The Public Enemy skips out on its scheduled match with The Dudley Boyz in New York. A reunited team of The Gangstas comes out to battle them, but Mustafa turns on New Jack. It is revealed that Mustafa was the "mysterious benefactor" and paid The Dudleys to get rid of The Public Enemy and New Jack.

Feb. 18, 1999 – Jason suffers a displaced bone in his neck during a match with Chris Chetti in Johnstown, Pa. The displaced bone is an aggravation of a previous injury. A Chris Chetti power bomb loosens previously fused vertebra and displaces one of them.

Tammy Lynn Sytch was released from ECW – *again* – in December 1999.

March 13, 1999 – Before a show at the ECW Arena begins, Tommy Dreamer enters the ring and discusses the financial problems of the company. He promises that with the fans' support, ECW will carry on.

March 21, 1999 – ECW holds its Living Dangerously pay-per-view in Asbury Park, N.J., at the Asbury Park Convention Hall. Taz defeats Sabu to unify the unofficial FTW world heavyweight title and the ECW world heavyweight title. However, Jerry Lynn and Rob Van Dam steal the show by battling to a 20-minute draw. Van Dam scores the win in overtime to retain the ECW world television title.

April 3, 1999 – At Cyberslam 1999 in Philadelphia, Taka Michinoku and 2 Cold Scorpio return to ECW. Michinoku defeats Papi Chulo, while Scorpio loses to Rob Van Dam.

Sid moved on to become Sid Vicious in World Championship Wrestling.

April 4, 1999 – Rob Van Dam celebrates his one-year anniversary as ECW world television champion.

April 12, 1999 – Joel Gertner tries out at MTV's "So You Wanna Be A Veejay?" contest in New York's Times Square. He doesn't win.

April 17, 1999 – The Dudley Boyz defeat Sabu and Rob Van Dam for the ECW world tag team title in Buffalo, N.Y.

May 10, 1999 – Shane Douglas does not appear at a show at ECW Arena in Philadelphia, a move that supports rumors he is leaving the company.

May 15, 1999 – During an independent show held in the ECW Arena, Shane Douglas announces he has left ECW. He follows that announcement with a press release two days later.

May 16, 1999 – ECW holds its Hardcore Heaven 1999 pay-per-view in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center. The show features the final ECW appearance of Sid Vicious, who is put through a table by Sabu.

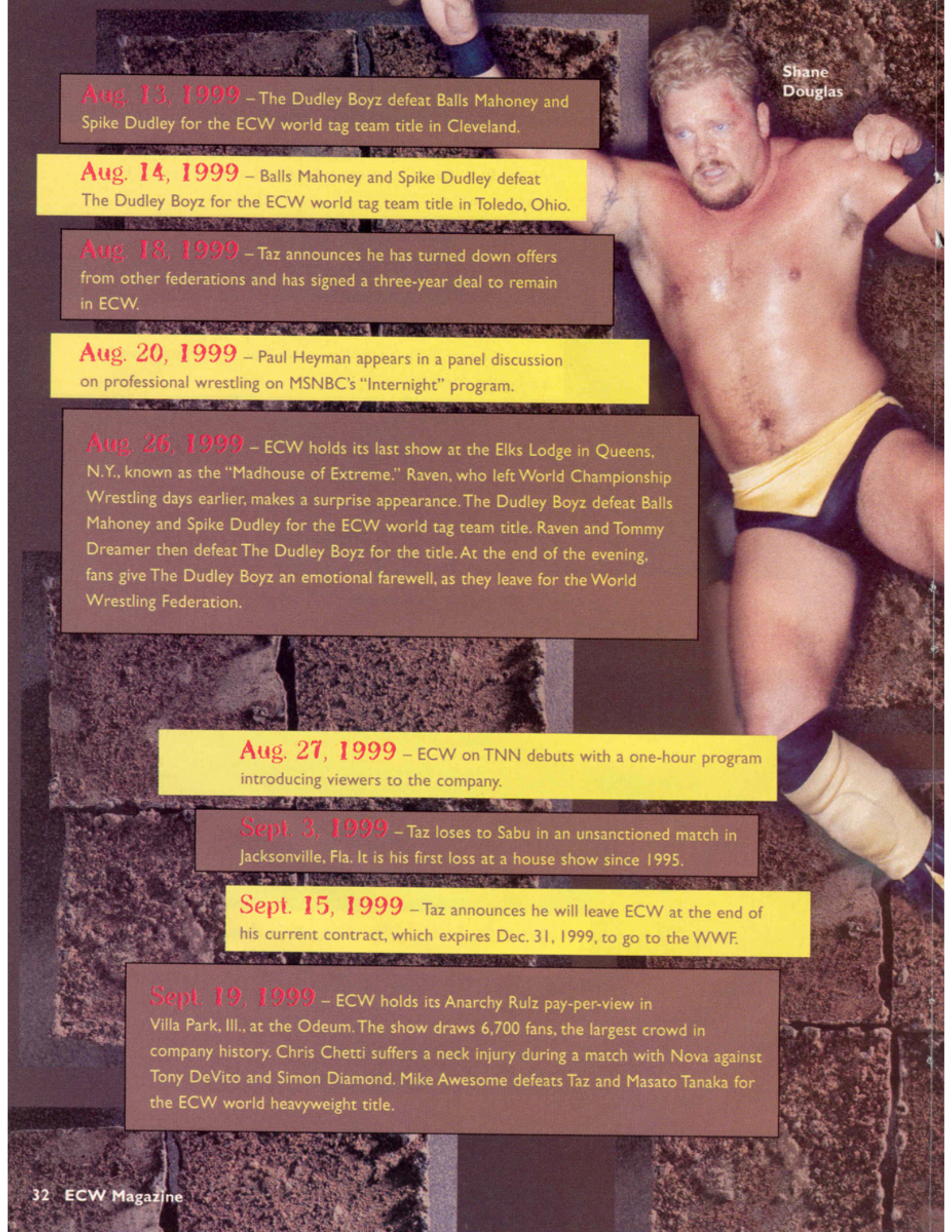
May 16, 1999 – Tommy Dreamer aggravates previous back injuries during a match with Lance Storm. He is diagnosed with two herniated discs. He continues to wrestle and takes very little time off.

June 30, 1999 – ECW announces it will air a one-hour, weekly show Fridays at 8 p.m. Eastern on TNN.

July 4, 1999 – The Dudley Boyz defeat Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley in a "double flaming tables" match in Belmar, N.J.

July 18, 1999 – ECW has its Heat Wave 1999 pay-per-view in Dayton, Ohio, at the Hara Arena. Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley defeat The Dudley Boyz for the ECW world tag team title.

July 27, 1999 – ECW announces an agreement with Pioneer Entertainment to be the exclusive distributor of its video products, both in VHS and DVD formats.



Shane Douglas

Aug. 13, 1999 – The Dudley Boyz defeat Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley for the ECW world tag team title in Cleveland.

Aug. 14, 1999 – Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley defeat The Dudley Boyz for the ECW world tag team title in Toledo, Ohio.

Aug. 18, 1999 – Taz announces he has turned down offers from other federations and has signed a three-year deal to remain in ECW.

Aug. 20, 1999 – Paul Heyman appears in a panel discussion on professional wrestling on MSNBC's "Internight" program.

Aug. 26, 1999 – ECW holds its last show at the Elks Lodge in Queens, N.Y., known as the "Madhouse of Extreme." Raven, who left World Championship Wrestling days earlier, makes a surprise appearance. The Dudley Boyz defeat Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley for the ECW world tag team title. Raven and Tommy Dreamer then defeat The Dudley Boyz for the title. At the end of the evening, fans give The Dudley Boyz an emotional farewell, as they leave for the World Wrestling Federation.

Aug. 27, 1999 – ECW on TNN debuts with a one-hour program introducing viewers to the company.

Sept. 3, 1999 – Taz loses to Sabu in an unsanctioned match in Jacksonville, Fla. It is his first loss at a house show since 1995.

Sept. 15, 1999 – Taz announces he will leave ECW at the end of his current contract, which expires Dec. 31, 1999, to go to the WWF.

Sept. 19, 1999 – ECW holds its Anarchy Rulz pay-per-view in Villa Park, Ill., at the Odeum. The show draws 6,700 fans, the largest crowd in company history. Chris Chetti suffers a neck injury during a match with Nova against Tony DeVito and Simon Diamond. Mike Awesome defeats Taz and Masato Tanaka for the ECW world heavyweight title.

extreme championship wrestling's year in review

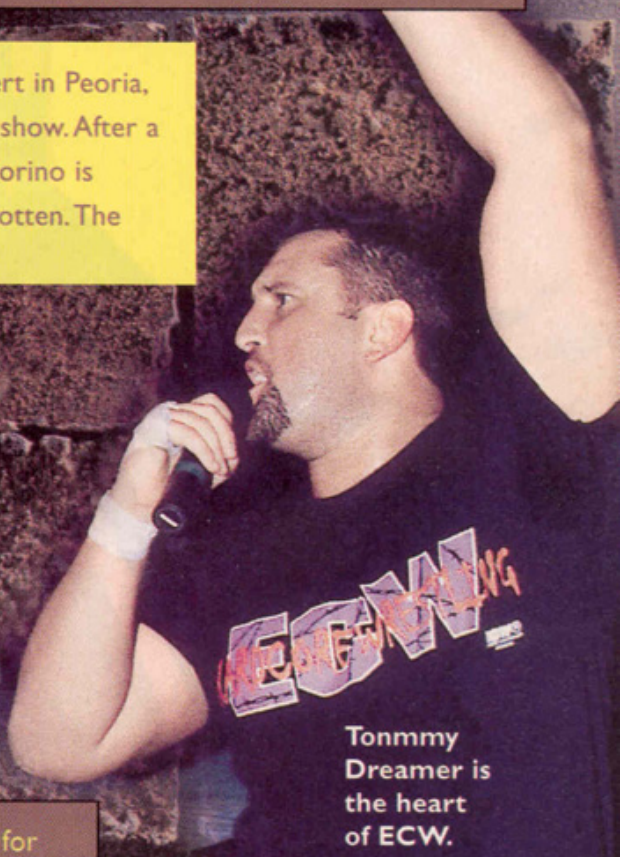
Oct. 23, 1999 – The Sandman makes a dramatic return to ECW at ECW Arena by coming to the aid of Tommy Dreamer when he and Raven are attacked by The Impact Players and Rhino. Sign Guy Dudley assumes the persona of "Lou E. Dangerously" and brings out Mikey Whipwreck (also returning to ECW) who challenges, and loses to, ECW World Heavyweight Champion Mike Awesome. Also, Rob Van Dam appears as himself on the NBC sitcom "City Guys."

Nov. 7, 1999 – ECW holds its seventh annual November To Remember pay-per-view at the Burt Flickinger Center in Buffalo, N.Y.

Nov. 18, 1999 – Acclaim Entertainment Inc. announces it has taken an equity interest in ECW and will be the exclusive developer of ECW video games. The first game, ECW Hardcore Revolution, becomes available for Playstation, Nintendo 64, Game Boy Color and Dreamcast on Feb. 17, 2000.

Nov. 20, 1999 – During a Limp Bizkit concert in Peoria, Ill., Steve Corino walks on stage and interrupts the show. After a verbal confrontation with lead singer Fred Durst, Corino is knocked out by New Jack, Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten. The incident is covered on MTV.

Dec. 2, 1999 – During a TNN taping in Atlanta, Steve Corino verbally abuses Dusty Rhodes, who is at the show. Rhodes takes to the ring and floors Corino and Jack Victory with his bionic elbows.

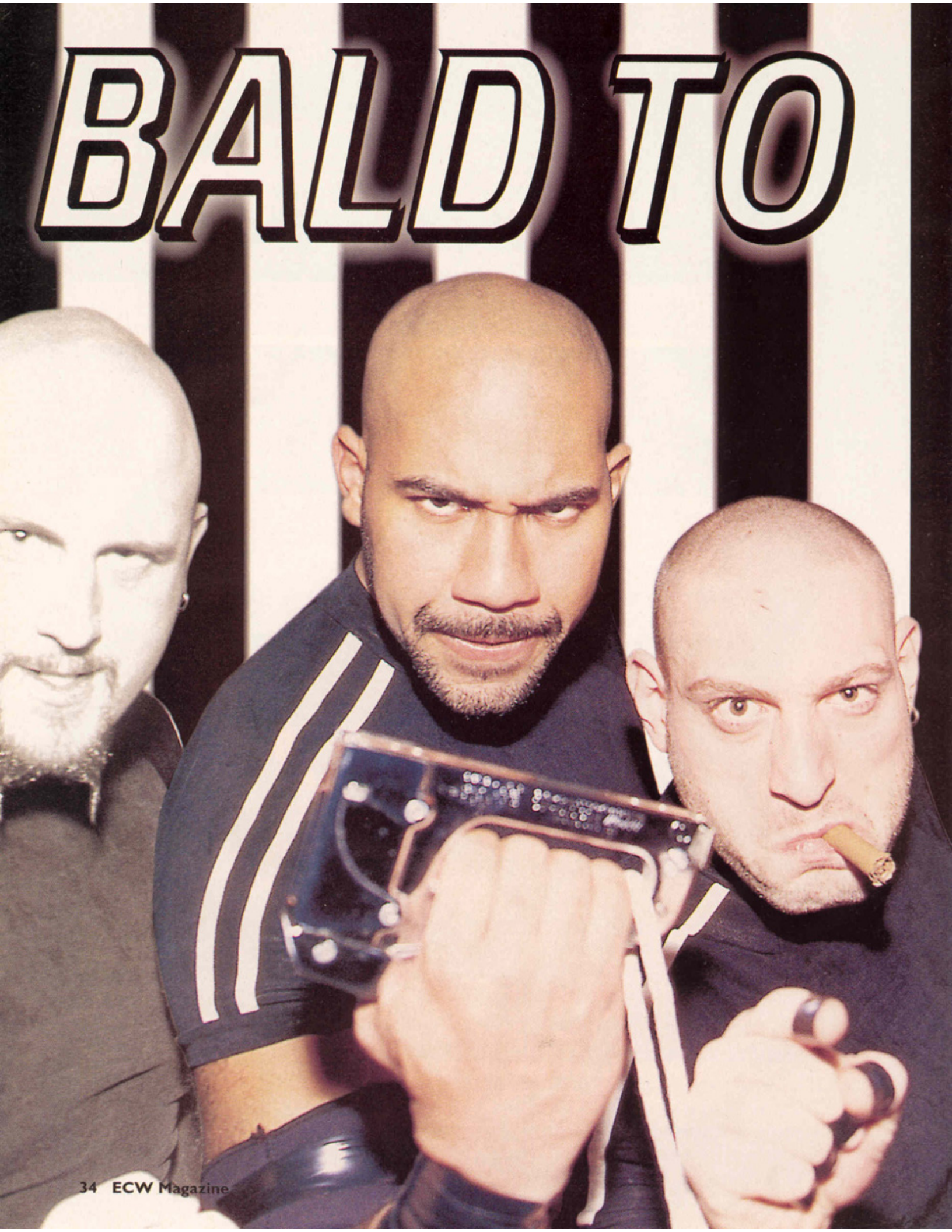


Tonmmy Dreamer is the heart of ECW.

Dec. 17, 1999 – Masato Tanaka defeats Mike Awesome for the ECW world heavyweight title in Nashville, Tenn. Also, Axl Rotten, Little Guido, Vito Lograsso, Big Sal E. Graziano, Judge Jeff Jones and referee John Finnegan appear on TNN's "RollerJam."

Dec. 23, 1999 – Mike Awesome defeats Masato Tanaka for the ECW world heavyweight title in White Plains, N.Y. ecw

BALD TO



THE BONE

Tony DeVito and Angel - known as The Baldies - unite to oppose New Jack

by Dave Scherer

For four years, New Jack has freely administered his own brand of street justice on whomever has crossed his path in Extreme Championship Wrestling. When he has entered the ring with his staple gun, no one has been able to do much about it. Most of the wrestlers New Jack has targeted were not prepared to put up the kind of fight it would take to beat the "Original Gangsta" – until now.

Times are changing for New Jack. There is a new group in ECW willing to take it beyond the extreme in hardcore brawls with him. During the fall of 1999 – on ECW on TNN and at November To Remember – The Baldies emerged to challenge New Jack's brutality. While the group has had as many as four members since its inception, Tony DeVito and Angel are the driving forces united to oppose New Jack.

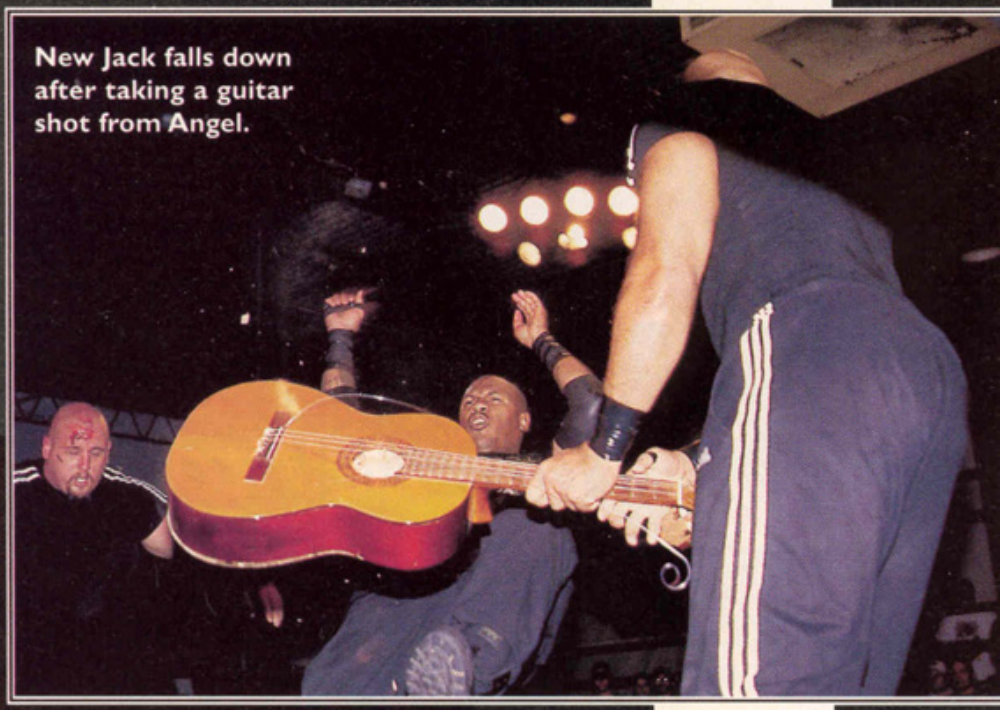
Debut of The Baldies

The Baldies first turned heads on Oct. 23, 1999, at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia. Angel took New Jack's staple gun from ▶

The Baldies (from left): Grimes, Angel, Tony DeVito and Newz.

the former bounty hunter and made a mark for himself and his group by stapling New Jack in the eye. New Jack was hospitalized and stitched up, which served to further The Baldies' claim that they are a group to be feared in ECW.

Many fans thought New Jack would get quick retribution when DeVito, Angel, Vito Lograsso and Newz took on Axl Rotten, Balls Mahoney and New Jack at November To Remember on Nov. 7, 1999, in Buffalo, N.Y. Those fans quickly found out, however, that The Baldies' earlier attack was no fluke. Despite a 15-foot dive by New Jack that put Angel through a table, Angel once again got the better of New Jack. To add to the indignation of beating him again, Angel busted New Jack in the head with his own guitar.



New Jack falls down after taking a guitar shot from Angel.

Origin of The Baldies

While relatively new to ECW fans, the key members of The Baldies – Tony DeVito and Angel, both 27 years old – have been wrestling for most of the 1990s.

After spending years working the independent circuit, DeVito and Angel formed a unit in ECW in 1999 and made it their goal to ravage ECW's roster and make a name for themselves. The group set its sights high by immediately targeting the most hardcore wrestlers ECW had to offer, including New Jack.

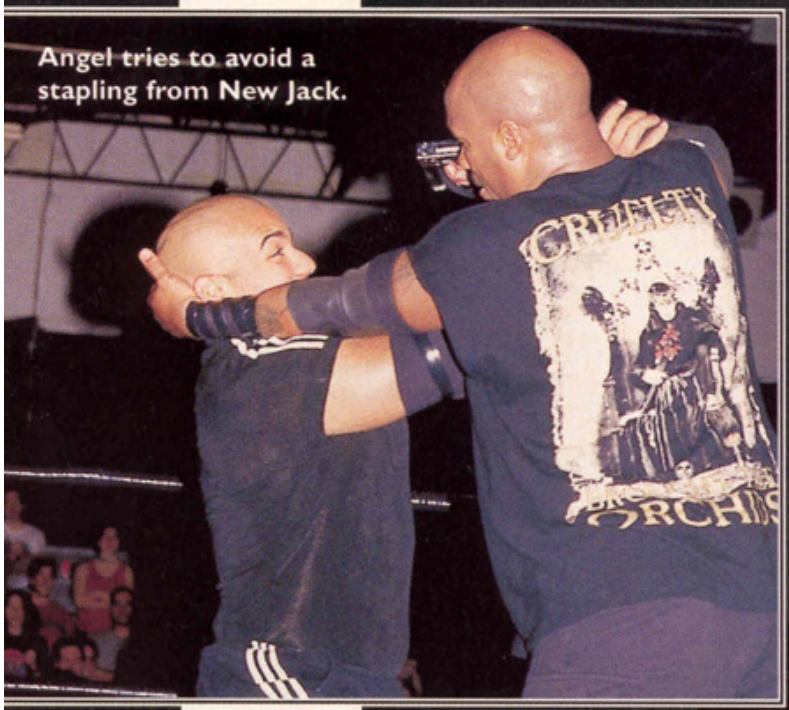
The Baldies are actually a take-off of the New York City street gang called "The Fordham Baldies," whose exploits are chronicled in the motion picture "The Wanderers." The menacing demeanor of the gang heavily influenced DeVito and Angel and helped them decide the kind of wrestlers they wanted to be.

"We saw the movie and decided to pattern ourselves after The Fordham Baldies," said DeVito. "We liked the way they took care of business and worked as a brotherhood."

"Back in the day they fought with chains – the old style," added Angel. "We just come out and go head up with everybody and fight it to the death. We don't care."

Angel

Height: 6'2", **Weight:** 250, **Age:** 27, **Turned Pro:** 1996, **Hometown:** Queens Bridge, N.Y., **Trained by:** "The Unpredictable" Johnny Rodz



Angel tries to avoid a stapling from New Jack.

Tension in the group

DeVito and Angel recruited Lograsso into the group with the philosophy that every member would be equal to the others. Almost from the start, however, there was friction behind the scenes with Lograsso, whose reputation for trying to tell the other wrestlers what to do did not sit well with Angel and DeVito and they decided to do something about it.

At a TNN taping in Chicago on Nov. 22, 1999, Lograsso watched from the balcony as DeVito and Angel (with Newz) battled New Jack, Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten. The message was clear: Lograsso was no longer a Baldie.

"My attitude is 'f--- everybody except our own,' " said Angel. "The same way we kicked out Lograsso, who was the sh--s, it's the same way we are going to treat everybody we face in the ring."

Tony DeVito

Height: 5'8", **Weight:** 225, **Age:** 27, **Turned Pro:** 1992, **Hometown:** Bronx, N.Y., **Trained by:** "Dr. D" David Shults

Angel's animosity toward Lograsso became apparent earlier in November. Mahoney and Rotten beat Lograsso Nov. 13, 1999, in Binghamton, N.Y., in an attempt to run Lograsso out of ECW.

This angered Angel, who said, "I wanted to run him out of ECW myself. Rotten, Mahoney – and especially New Jack – will pay for taking that from me. I am the new 'King of the Streets.' "

Baldies here to stay

Now, The Baldies operate under a simple creed: You are either with them, or you are against them. DeVito and Angel are always looking for new members to join the gang. So far a few other wrestlers, such as Newz, Rod Price and Grimes, have gotten chances to team up with them. With the subtraction of Lograsso, however, DeVito, Angel and Grimes are the only full-time members of the group.

And the two, under the name of The Baldies, plan on haunting New Jack and the rest of the ECW roster for a long time.

"We have taken a lot of crap and we have decided the time has come to make our name," said Angel. "Anyone who gets in our way will find out that was their mistake. We will show them, Baldie style." ecw

ECW ON TV

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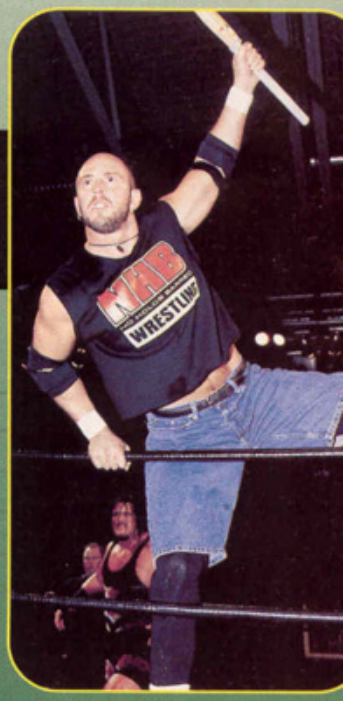
Check out ECW's weekly show on The Nashville Network on Friday nights at 8 p.m. Eastern and Pacific and 7 p.m. Central. Check your local listings for channel number and time. ECW also carries a weekly, syndicated TV show on the following stations:

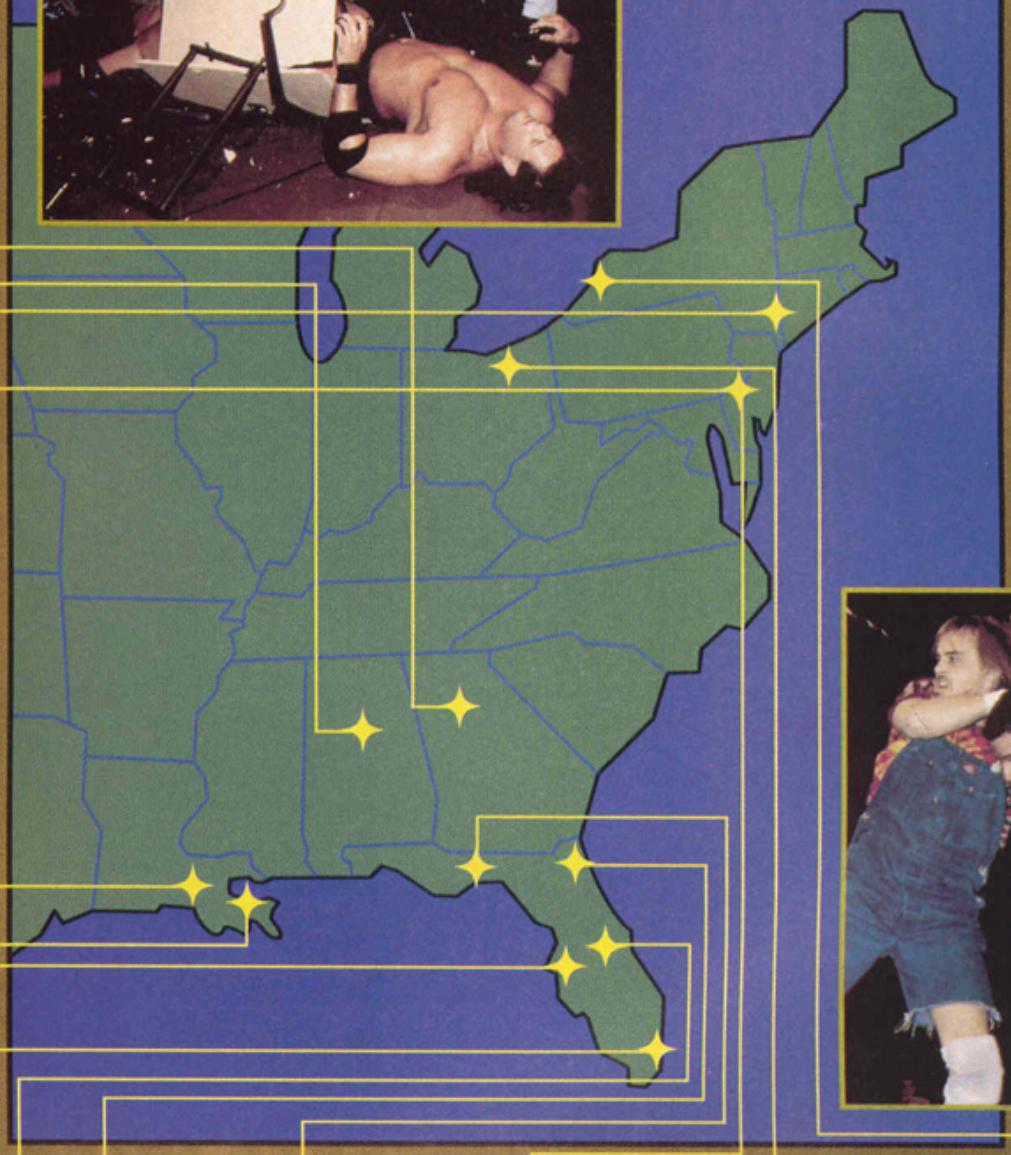


City, State	Station	Day	Time
Florida	Sunshine Net	Friday	2 a.m. Eastern
New Jersey	CTN	Saturday	4 p.m. Eastern
USA	TNN	Friday	8 p.m. Eastern
USA	America One	Sunday	1 a.m. Eastern
Montgomery/Selma, AL	WAXC 64	Monday	10:30 p.m. Central
Fresno, CA	KGMC 43	Friday	11 p.m. Pacific
San Diego, CA	XUPN 49	Saturday	1 p.m. Pacific
Washington, DC	Media Gen. 51	Tuesday	6 p.m. Eastern
Jacksonville, FL	WJWB 17	Sunday	1 a.m. Eastern
Miami Beach, FL	WAMI	Saturday	11 p.m. Eastern (replay Sunday 2 p.m.)
Orlando, FL	WRBW 65	Friday	1 a.m. Eastern
Albany, GA	WRKL 35	Saturday	9 p.m. Eastern
Atlanta, GA	WNGM 34	Saturday	7 p.m. Eastern (replay Wednesday 7 p.m.)
Columbus, GA	WCGT 16	Saturday	7 p.m. Eastern (replay Wednesday 10 p.m.)
Twin Falls, ID	KKHM 55	Saturday	11 a.m. Mountain
Carbondale, IL	SPC	Friday	10 p.m. Central (replay Tuesday 7 p.m.)
Chicago, IL	WCIU 26	Thursday	1 a.m. Central
Indianapolis, IN	WAV 53	Tuesday	10 p.m. Eastern (replay Sunday 5 p.m.)
South Bend, IN	WMWB 69	Saturday	12 a.m. Eastern
Murray, KY	WQTV 46	Saturday	11 p.m. Eastern
Baton Rouge, LA	WBBR 10	Saturday	11 p.m. Central
New Orleans, LA	WGNO 26	Saturday	2 a.m. Central
Detroit, MI	WADL 38	Thursday	9 p.m. Eastern
Gulfport, MS	WXXV 25	Saturday	1 a.m. Central
Wilmington, NC	WSSN 10	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern
Atlantic City, NJ	WWAC 53	Saturday	9 p.m. Eastern
Las Vegas, NV	KVWB 21	Saturday	2 a.m. Pacific
Las Vegas, NV	KCNG 25	Saturday	1 p.m. Pacific
Albany, NY	WBVG25	Sunday	1 a.m. Eastern
Buffalo, NY	WYNO 49	Saturday	9 p.m. Eastern
Burlington/Plattsburgh, NY	WBVT 39	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern
Long Island, NY	WVVH 10	Saturday	10 p.m. Eastern
New York, NY	MSG Net	Saturday	1 a.m. Eastern
Cincinnati, OH	WBQC 25	Monday	10 p.m. Eastern
Columbus, OH	WLWG 62	Thursday	9 p.m. Eastern
Dayton, OH	WUCT 51	Saturday	7 p.m. Eastern (replay Sunday 12 p.m.)
Youngstown, OH	WFYX	Saturday	2 a.m. Eastern
Philadelphia, PA	WGTW 48	Friday	10 p.m. Eastern (replay Saturday 9 p.m.)
Pittsburgh, PA	WBGN 28	Saturday	10:30 a.m. Eastern (replay Saturday 11:30 p.m.)
Memphis, TN	WBII 20	Saturday	10:30 p.m. Central
Dallas, TX	KHSX 49	Saturday	7 p.m. Central (replay Sunday 10 p.m.)

ECW ON TOUR

Visit www.ECWwrestling.com for updates!

Show dates and locations are subject to change.



Friday, Jan. 7
Center Stage
Atlanta

Sunday, Jan. 9
Guilty As Charged
pay-per-view
Boutwell Auditorium
Birmingham, Ala.

Friday, Jan. 14
O'Neill Center
Danbury, Conn.

Saturday, Jan. 15
ECW Arena
Philadelphia

Friday, Jan. 21
Great Hall
Baton Rouge, La.

Saturday, Jan. 22
Alario Center
New Orleans

Thursday, Jan. 27
Coliseum
Tampa, Fla.

Friday, Jan. 28
War Memorial
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Saturday, Jan. 29
Zuma Beach Club
Orlando, Fla.

Friday, Feb. 4
Morocco Shrine Auditorium
Jacksonville, Fla.

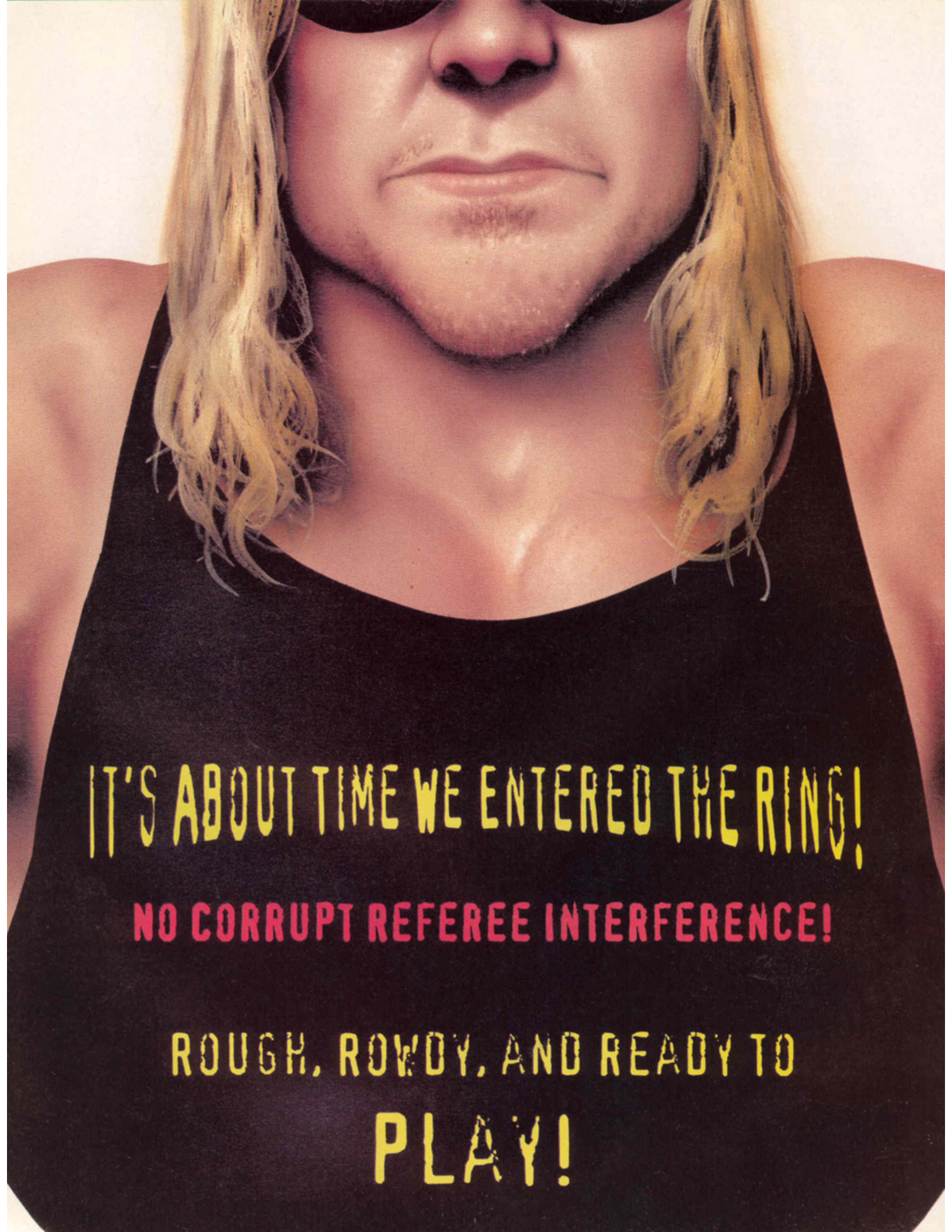
Saturday, Feb. 5
Leon County Civic Center
Tallahassee, Fla.

Saturday, March 4
ECW Arena
Philadelphia

Sunday, March 26
Living Dangerously pay-per-view
Location TBA

Thursday, April 6
Agora Theater
Cleveland

Saturday, April 8
Burt Flickinger Center
Buffalo, N.Y.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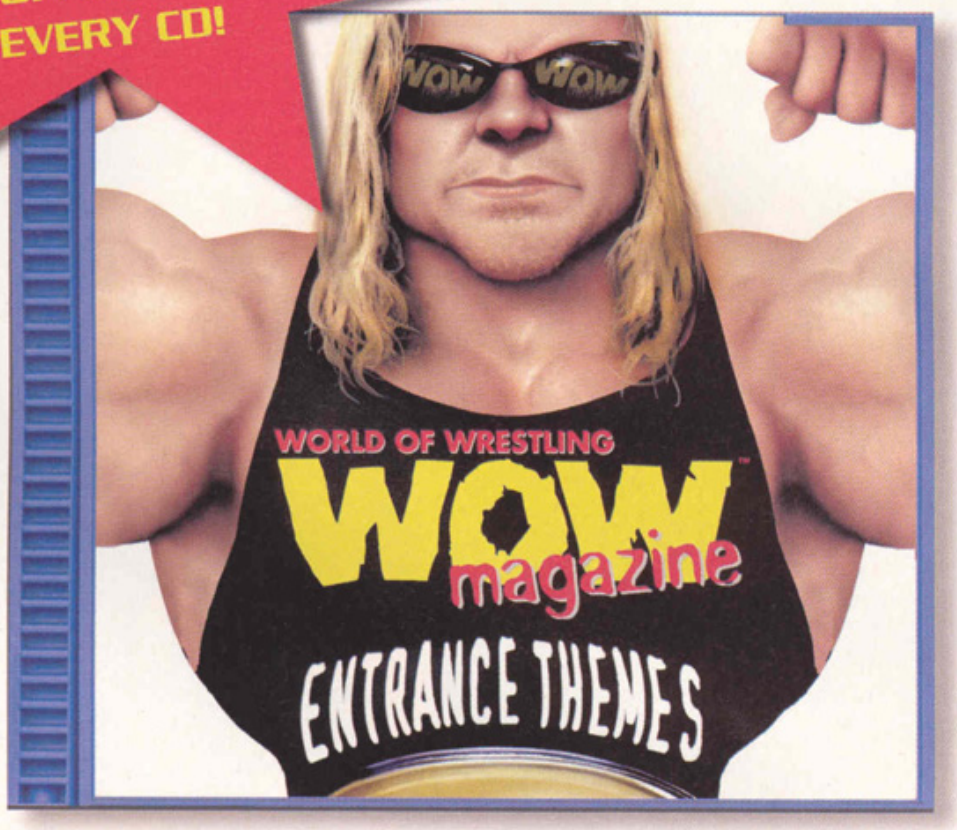

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BEST BUY®

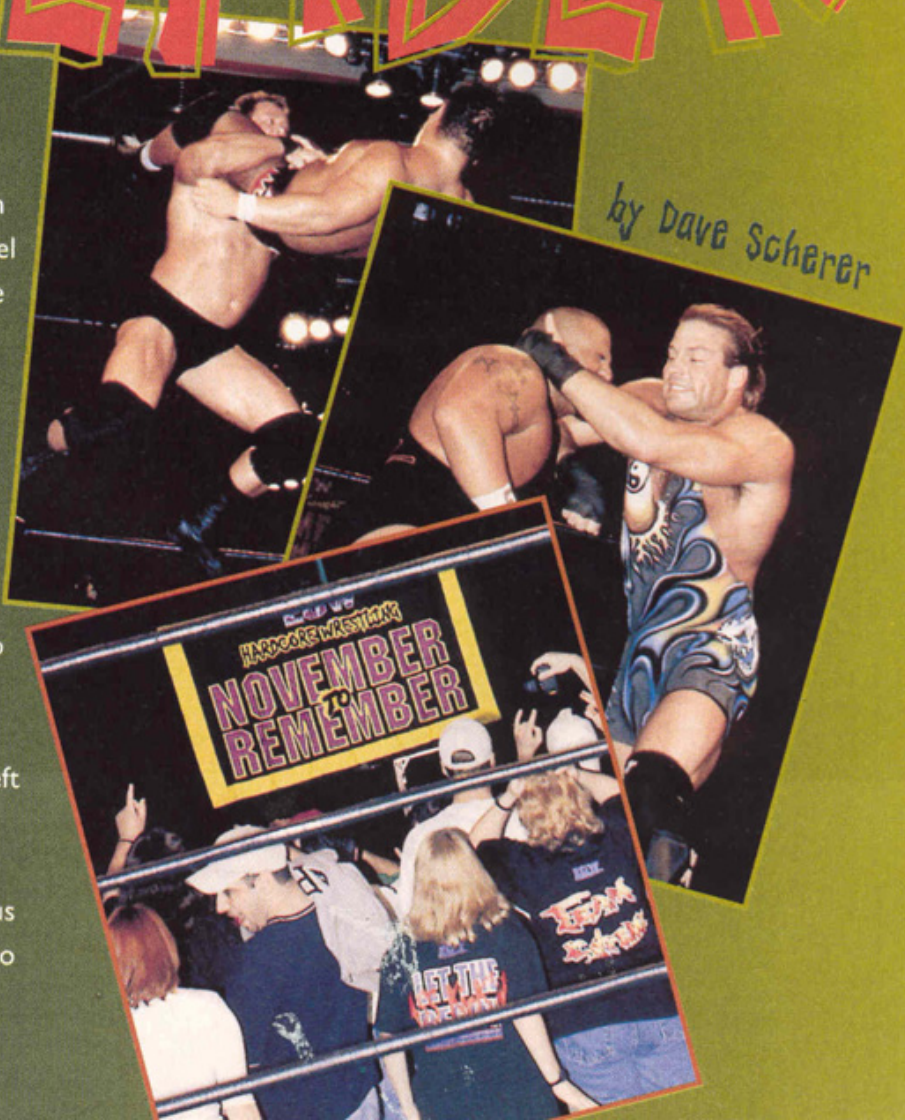
November To Remember

Nov. 7, 1999
Burt Flickinger Center, Buffalo, N.Y.

by Dave Scherer

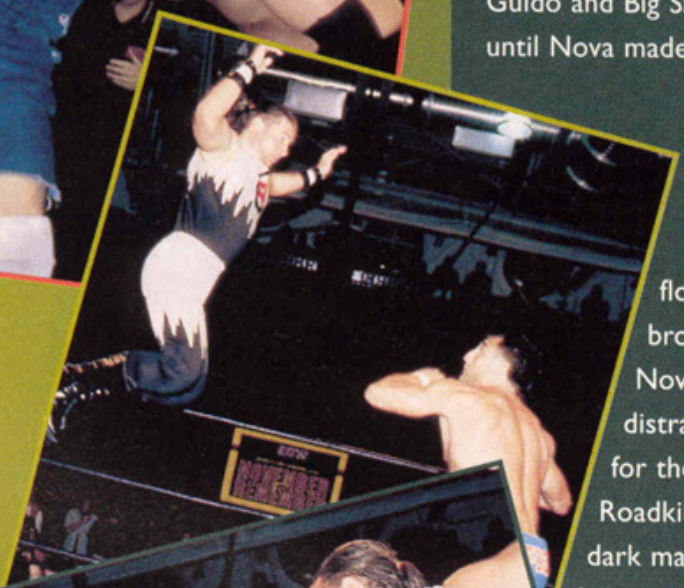
The November To Remember pay-per-view on Nov. 7, 1999, at the Burt Flickinger Center in Buffalo, N.Y., opened with Joey Styles standing in the ring with Cyrus. Joel Gertner came out and told the crowd that he would be announcing the pay-per-view with Styles. Cyrus backed into the corner and agreed to let Gertner do so.

Taz came to the ring and took Styles to task for saying on television that Taz had applied his chokehold on Rob Van Dam in a cowardly fashion in the weeks leading up to the pay-per-view. He gave Styles the chance to leave the ring before he choked him out and Styles left. Cyrus was smiling throughout. Taz told Gertner to leave as well, but before he left the ring, Taz choked him out. Cyrus congratulated Taz on his contract with the World Wrestling Federation. Taz thanked Cyrus for his help and said he choked out Gertner so that Cyrus could call the pay-per-view.



Spike Dudley vs. Simon Diamond (with Big Dick Hertz)

Simon Diamond began bragging, as usual, until Jazz came out and nailed him with the Jazz stinger. Big Dick Hertz took Jazz out with the penile implant. Spike Dudley ran out and made the save and took on Diamond, who he busted open with a chairshot to the head. Dudley got the pin in 2:58 after an acid drop. Little Guido and Big Sal E. Graziano came to the ring and beat up Spike until Nova made the save. This led into the next match.

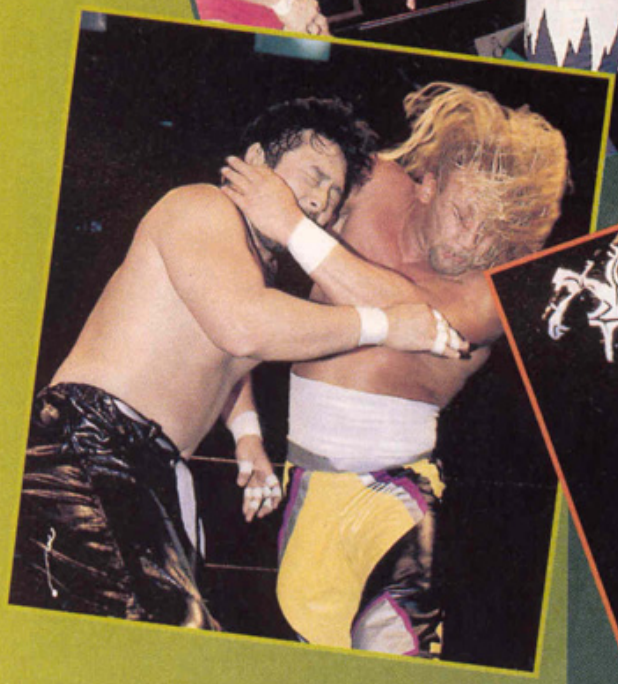


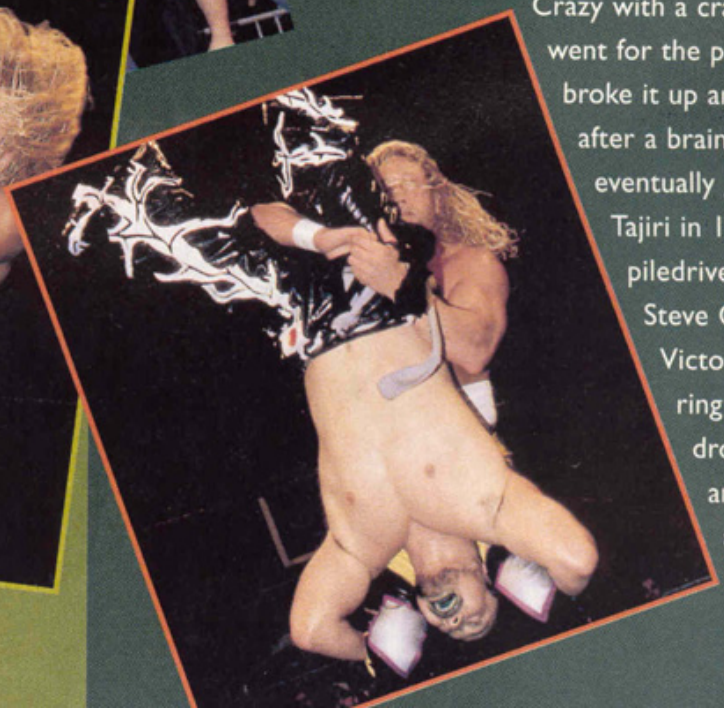
Little Guido (with Big Sal E. Graziano) vs. Nova

Nova dominated early, hitting a big splash to the floor and a Samoan drop from the top. Graziano broke up the count when Nova went for the pin so Nova took him out with a tornado DDT. That distraction allowed Guido to hit Nova with a tomikaze for the pin in 4:22. After the match, Danny Doring and Roadkill (who beat Bill Wiles and C.W. Anderson in a dark match) came to the ring to attack Nova. Chris Chetti followed them and made the save, returning from a back injury suffered at Anarchy Rulz on Sept. 19, 1999.

Jerry Lynn vs. Yoshihiro Tajiri (with Jack Victory) vs. Super Crazy

When these three men get together, fans can always count on high-flying wrestling. Super Crazy hit an incredible moonsault from a 10-foot high camera scaffolding. After battling in the ring, Jerry Lynn hit Crazy with a cradle piledriver and went for the pin. Yoshihiro Tajiri broke it up and pinned Crazy after a brainbuster. Lynn eventually got the pin on Tajiri in 10:51 after a cradle piledriver. After the match, Steve Corino and Jack Victory came into the ring but Lynn dropkicked Victory and put Corino away with a cradle piledriver.

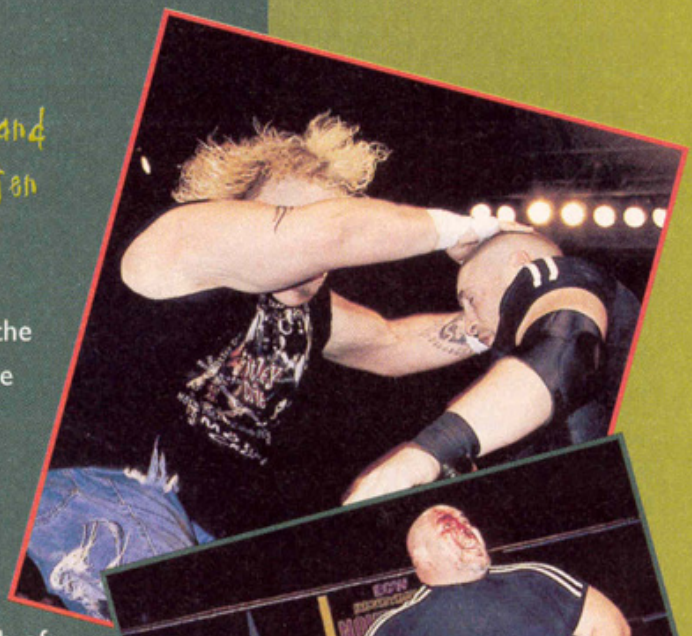


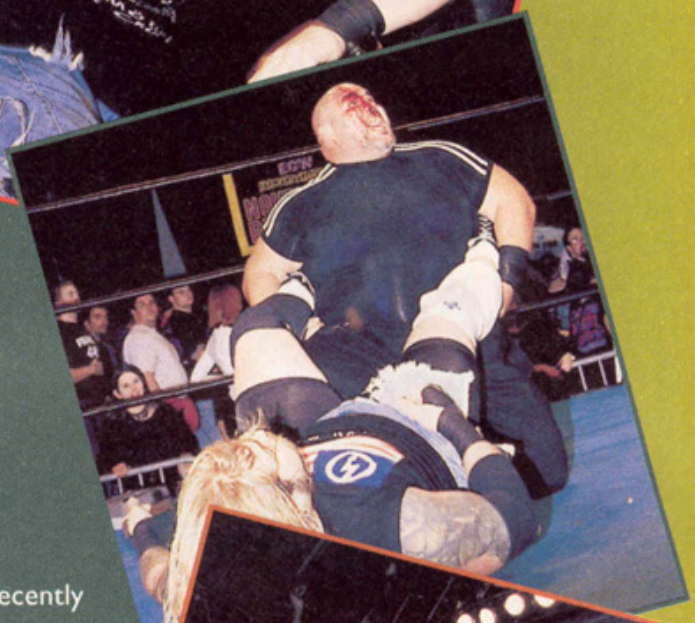


November to Remember

The Baldies (Angel, Tony DeVito, Newz and Vito Lograsso) vs. New Jack, Axl Rotten and Balls Mahoney

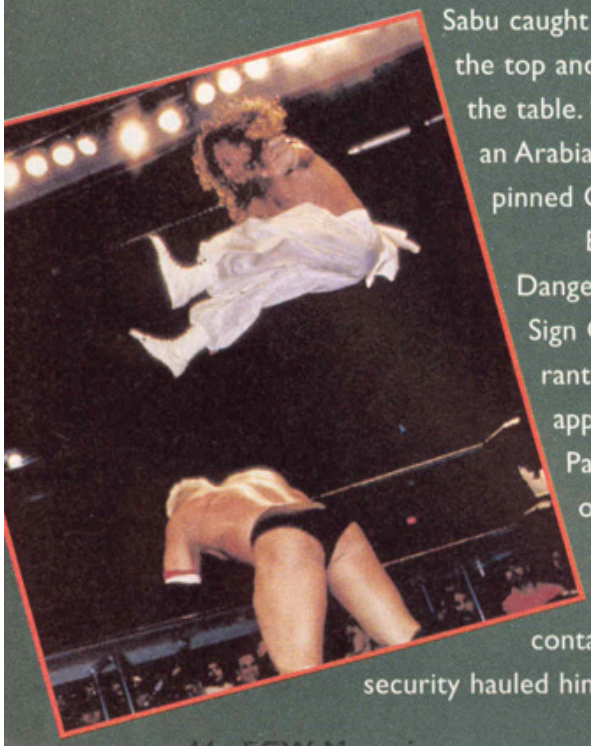
This match was exactly what fans would expect from these men: A chaotic brawl all over the building. Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten started the match alone, but New Jack came out with his garbage can full of weapons. Early in the match, New Jack hit Angel in the crotch with a vacuum cleaner and a staple gun. They then brawled into the crowd and New Jack jumped off of the top of a basketball backboard onto Angel, putting both of them through a table. Angel came back and got the pin on New Jack in 8:21 after he broke a guitar over New Jack's head.



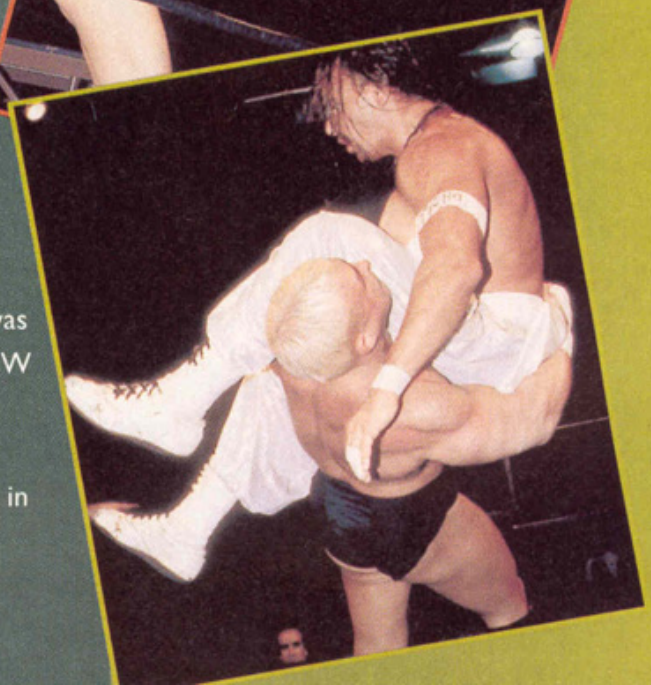


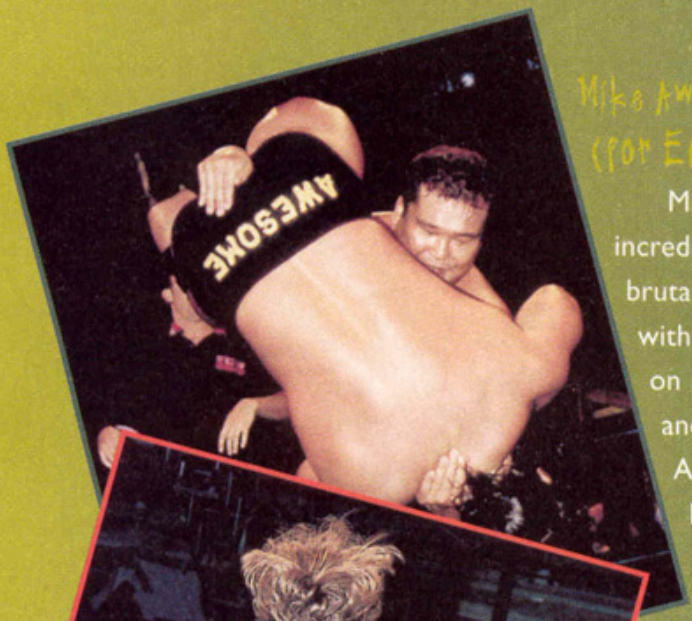
Sabu (with Bill Alfonso) vs. Chris Candido (with Tammy Lynn Sytch)

In a pre-match interview, Bill Alfonso said Sabu dedicated the match to his close friend Ticho, who had recently died. Sabu and Chris Candido traded near falls for most of the match, with each breaking the other's attempt cleanly. Near the end of the match, Tammy Lynn Sytch tried to interfere but Alfonso stopped her. Sytch ended up on a table in the ring and Sabu went to the top turnbuckle to smash her through it. Candido pushed her off the table to save her but Sabu caught him as he came off the top and put him through the table. Sabu followed with an Arabian facebuster and pinned Candido in 17:41.



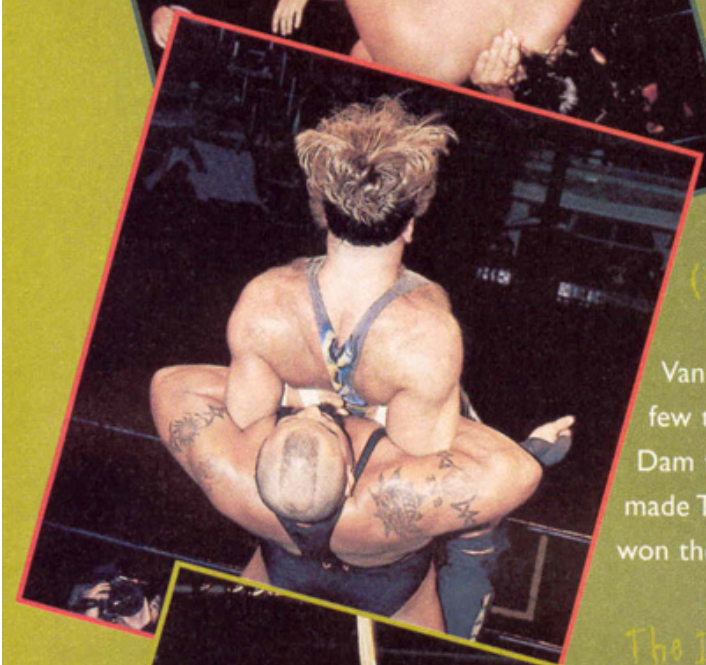
Backstage, Lou E. Dangerously (the former Sign Guy Dudley) was ranting and raving, apparently thinking he was Paul E. Dangerously, ECW owner Paul Heyman's alter ego. Lou "fired" everyone who came in contact with him before security hauled him away.





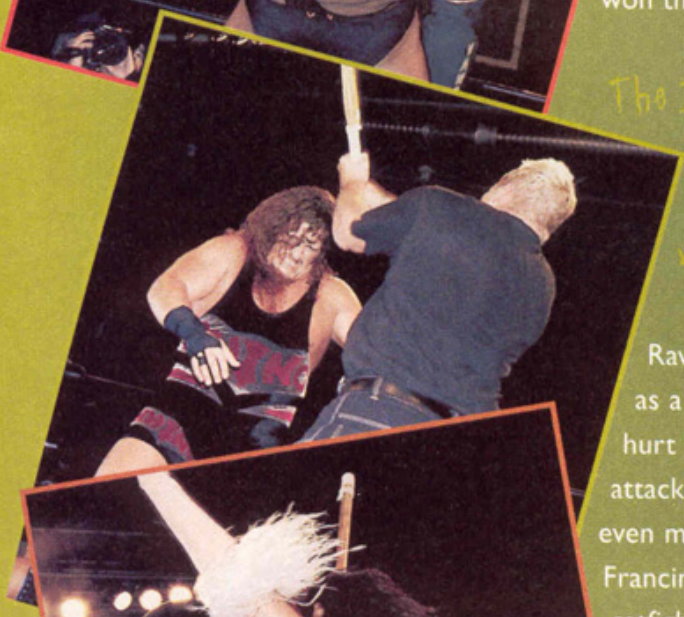
Mike Awesome (c) vs. Masato Tanaka (for ECW world heavyweight title)

Mike Awesome once again lived up to his name by showing an incredible mix of speed and power. This match was probably the most brutal that the two longtime rivals have had. They nailed each other with chairshots early on. Awesome took control with a powerbomb on Masato Tanaka through a table that was set up between the ring and the guardrail. Tanaka managed to come back and suplex Awesome through a table. Awesome finally put Tanaka away in 12:27 after he hit a frog splash and then an Awesome bomb from the top turnbuckle.



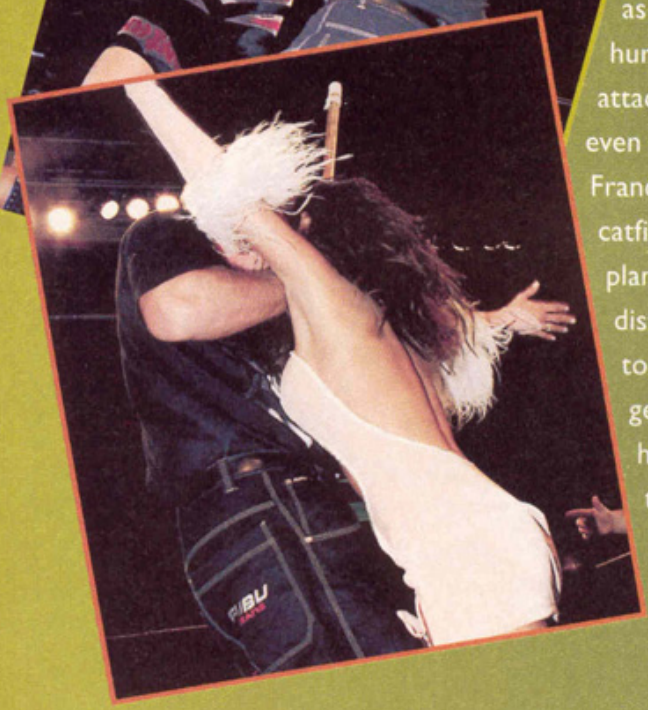
Rob Van Dam (c) (with Bill Alfonso) vs. Taz (for ECW world television title)

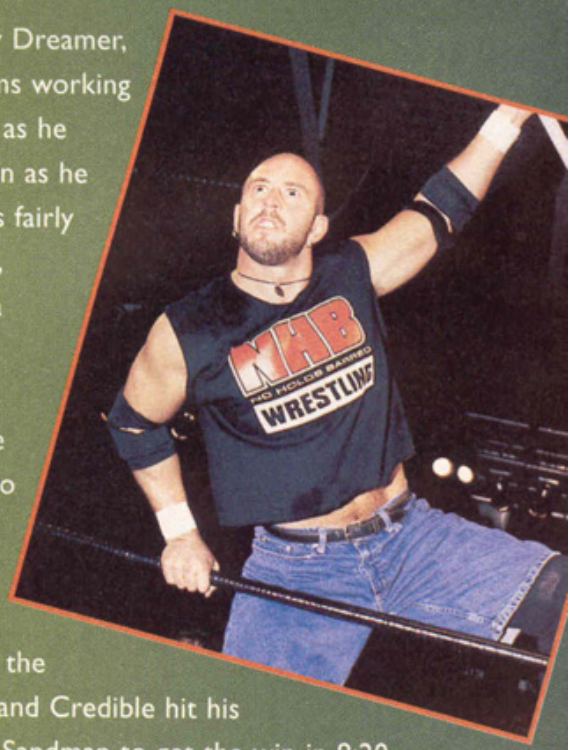
In Taz's last match in ECW, he pitted his ground tactics against Rob Van Dam's high-flying arsenal. Van Dam tried for the Van Daminator a few times early in the match, but Taz blocked it each time and put Van Dam through a table after one block. Bill Alfonso slapped Taz. Van Dam made Taz bleed from the mouth after a split-legged moonsault and finally won the battle in 14:33 after a five star frog splash.



The Impact Players (Justin Credible and Lance Storm) (with Dawn Marie) and Rhino vs. Raven and Tommy Dreamer (c) (with Francine) and Sandman (for ECW world tag team title)

The unlikely team of Tommy Dreamer, Raven and Sandman had problems working as a team. Raven helped as much as he hurt by attacking Dreamer as often as he attacked opponents. The match was fairly even most of the way. Near the end, Francine and Dawn Marie got into a catfight in the ring and Sandman planted a kiss on Dawn Marie. This distraction allowed Justin Credible to come in. Sandman was about to get him but Raven came in and hit Sandman in the head with the cane "accidentally." The Impact Players and Rhino used the dissension to their advantage and Credible hit his that's incredible piledriver on Sandman to get the win in 9:20. ecw

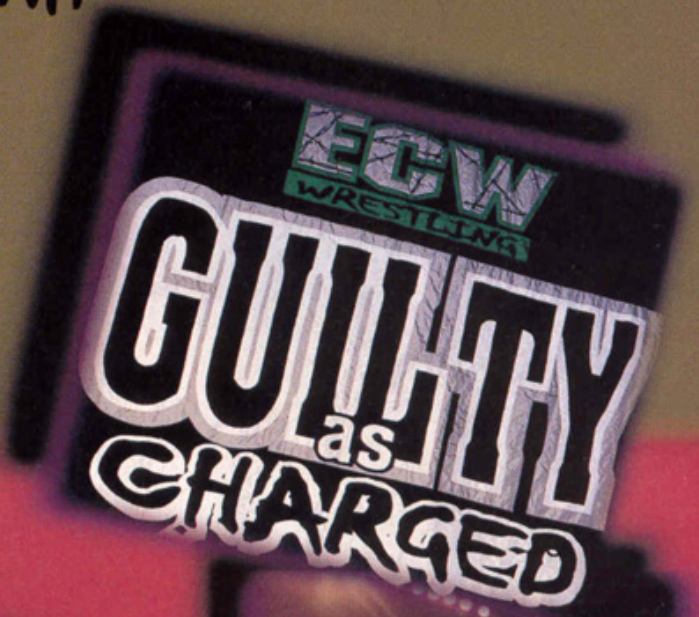




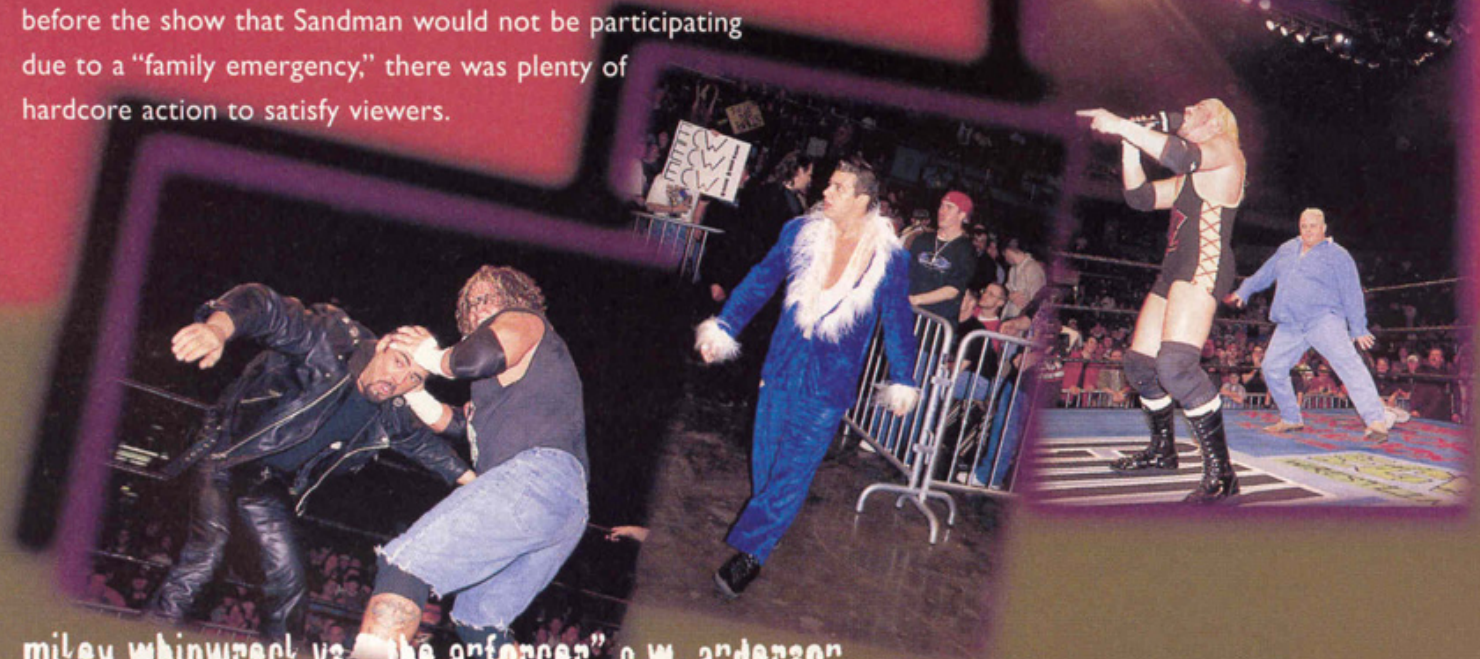
GUILTY AS

Boutwell Auditorium Birmingham, Ala. Jan. 9, 2000

by Jason Scales



Extreme Championship Wrestling's Guilty As Charged pay-per-view – billed as the "first wrestling pay-per-view of the new millennium" – featured a tag team title change and a brutal match between Spike Dudley and ECW World Heavyweight Champion Mike Awesome. Although it was revealed before the show that Sandman would not be participating due to a "family emergency," there was plenty of hardcore action to satisfy viewers.



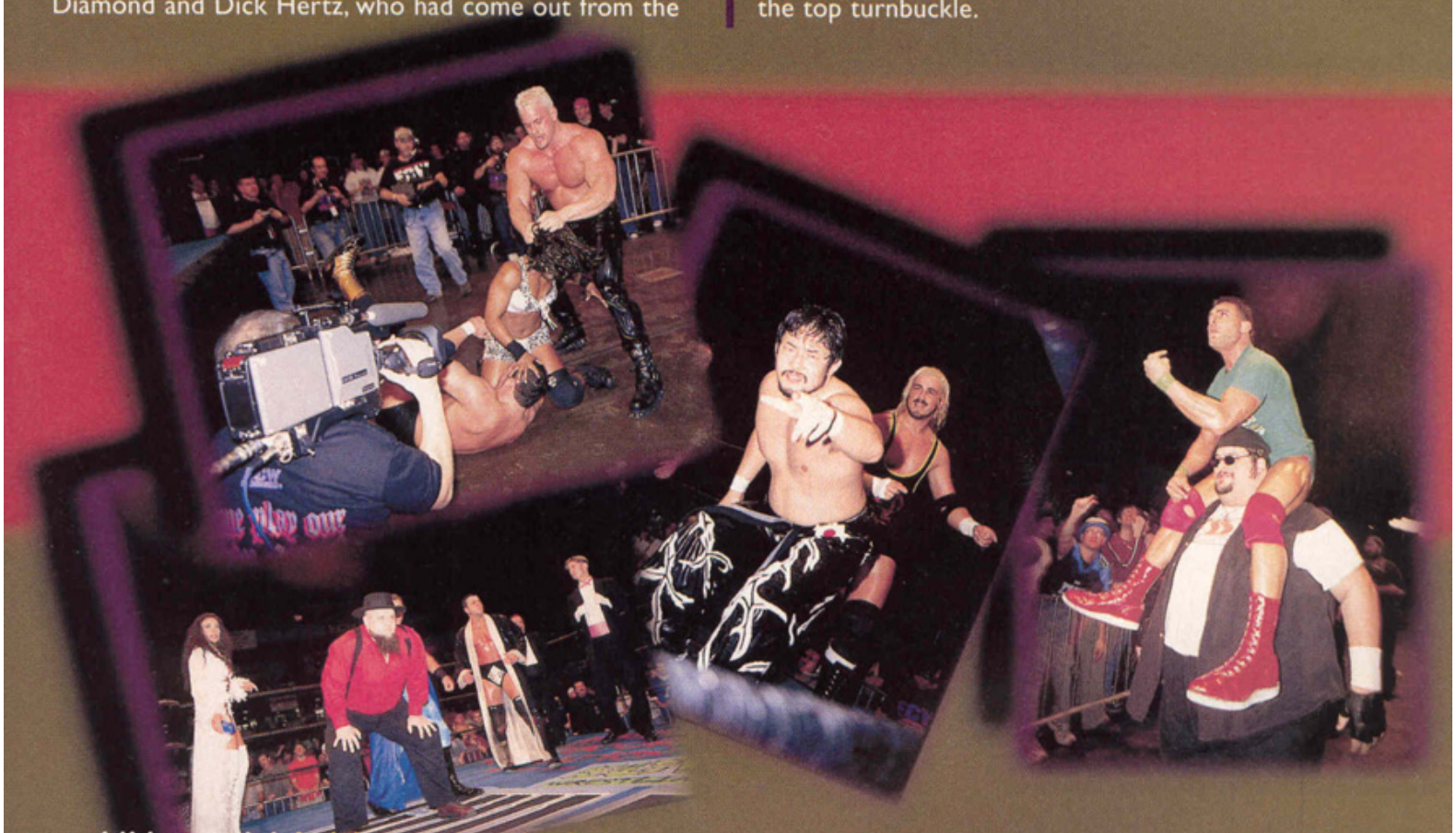
mikey whipwreck vs. "the enforcer" c.w. anderson (with "beautiful" bill wiles and lou e. dangerously)

C.W. Anderson immediately targeted the left arm of Mikey Whipwreck by executing a single-arm DDT followed by a power slam on Whipwreck with Whipwreck's arm pinned behind his back. Whipwreck fought back by connecting with a Whippersnapper and a clothesline from the top turnbuckle. With the referee distracted by Bill Wiles, Lou E. Dangerously hit Whipwreck with a cellphone. Anderson then got the pin in 4:40 after a spinebuster on Whipwreck.

CHARGED

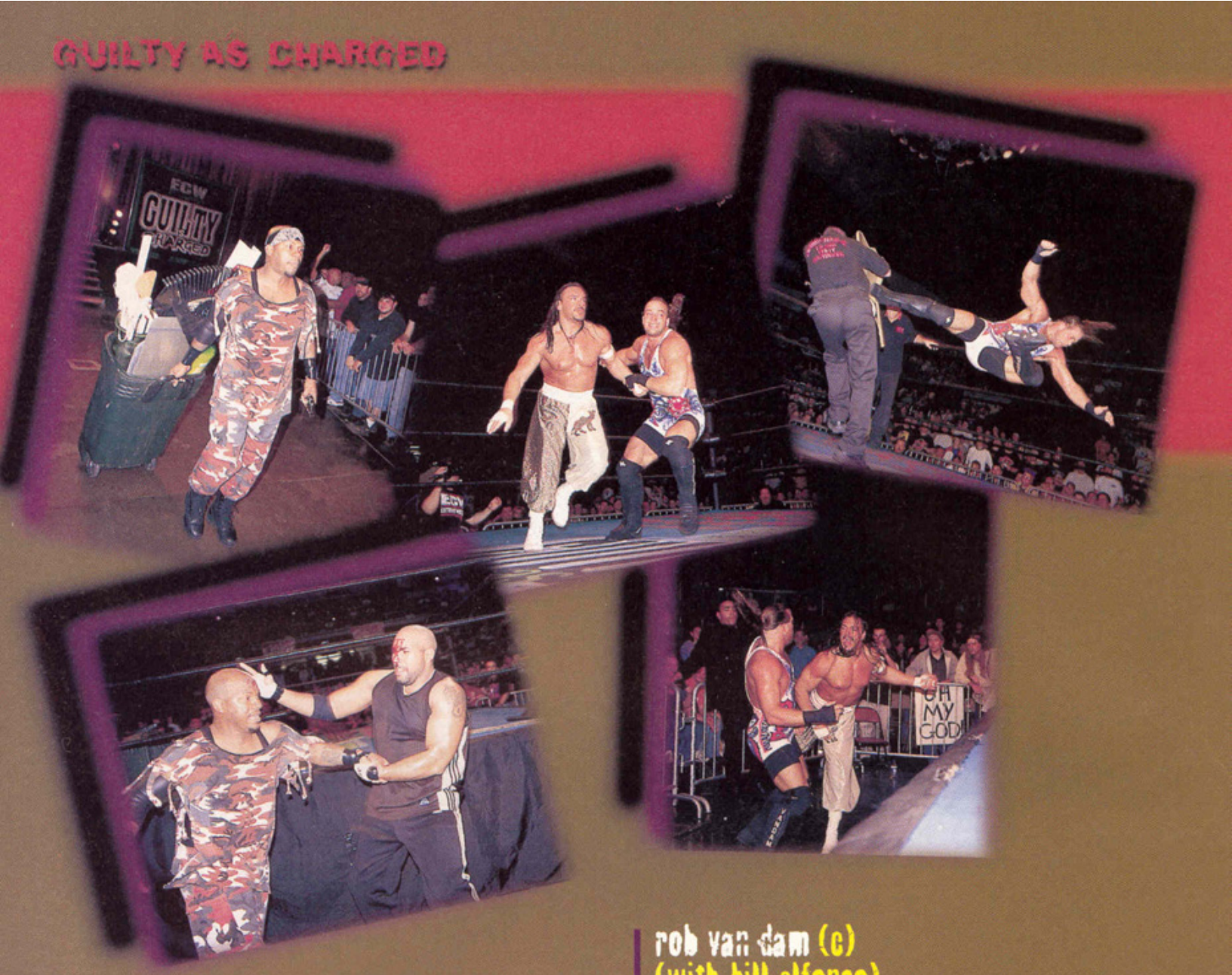
simon diamond (with mitch), danny doring (with elecktra) and amish roadkill vs. nova, kid cash and jazz (six person tag team match)

Jazz entered the ring for her team and called out Simon Diamond but Danny Doring answered instead. Jazz mounted some brief offense on Doring and Roadkill until a brawl ensued with all members of the teams participating. Jazz finally got a shot at Diamond and hit him with a Jazz stinger. Jazz and Kid Cash then battled Diamond and Dick Hertz, who had come out from the back, outside the ring and then backstage. Nova fended for himself against Danny Doring and Roadkill until Chris Chetti appeared to even the odds. Chetti delivered clotheslines and chops to Doring and Roadkill until Elecktra slapped Chetti. Roadkill ended the match at 9:55 by pinning Chetti after hitting a splash from the top turnbuckle.



yoshihiro tajiri (with steve corino) and super crazy vs. little guido (with sal e. graziano) and jerry lynn (dream partner tag team match)

The match was supposed to be Yoshihiro Tajiri and Super Crazy on opposing teams with mystery partners, but Steve Corino named Super Crazy as Tajiri's partner. Paul E. Heyman then picked Jerry Lynn to be Little Guido's partner. All four performers traded aerial moves inside and outside the ring, resulting in several near-falls. Lynn hit a plancha onto Tajiri and Tajiri hit Guido with a moonsault. Super Crazy then dragged Guido into the crowd and landed a moonsault from an upper level of seats. In the ring, Tajiri sprayed green mist into Lynn's eyes and pinned him at 11:56 after connecting with a brainbuster.

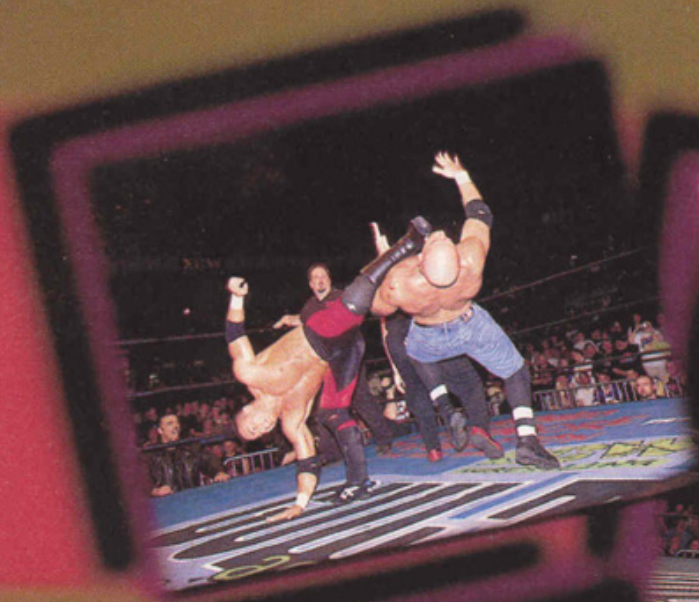


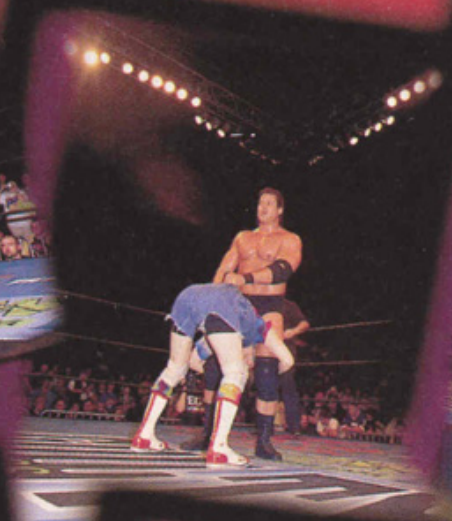
new jack vs. angel (with fellow baldies members grimes and tony devito)

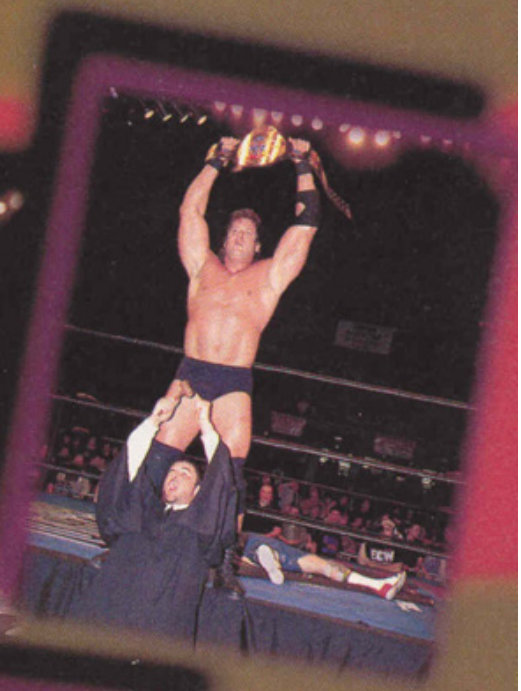
New Jack assaulted Angel with a street sign, mailbox and cheese grater. New Jack then landed an elbow from the top rope outside the ring on Angel. New Jack resumed his beatings in the ring by using another street sign and a vacuum cleaner. Grimes and DeVito came to the rescue but New Jack fended them off with a DDT on DeVito and a suplex through a table on Grimes. New Jack then took Grimes into the crowd and put him through a table by leaping from a 20-foot high camera scaffolding. DeVito worked to distract New Jack back in the ring. While New Jack stapled DeVito in the forehead, Angel brained New Jack with a shovel and got the pin in 8:47.

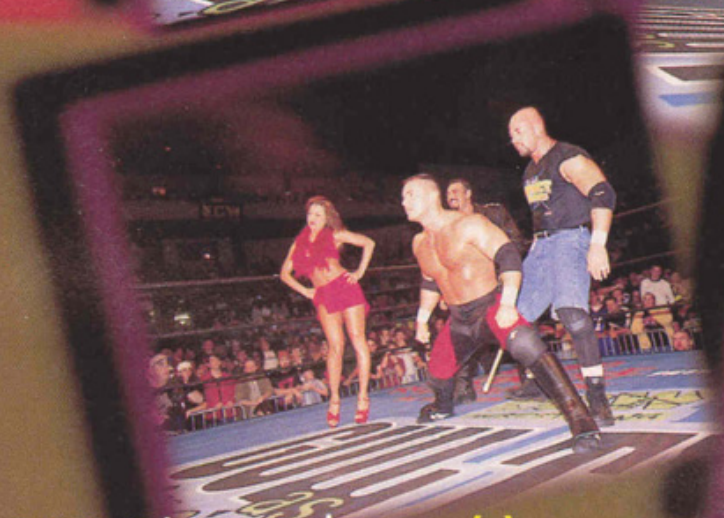
rob van dam (c) (with bill alfonso) vs. sabu (with bill alfonso) (for ecw world television title)

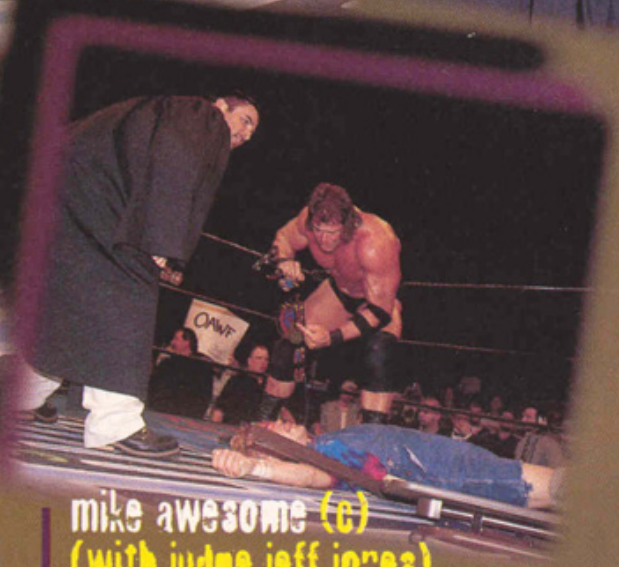
Sabu took the early edge by using a chair as a weapon and a springboard. Rob Van Dam gained momentum and landed a somersault splash on Sabu into the crowd. Alfonso set up a table outside the ring, which Sabu used to put Van Dam through with a splash from the top rope. The two battled with chairs in the ring until Sabu got Van Dam in a camel clutch. Sabu seemingly got the pin after hitting Van Dam with a sidekick but the referee didn't notice due to being knocked down by Sabu earlier. Van Dam rallied and executed separate Van Daminators on Sabu and Alfonso. He then hit a frog splash on Sabu for the pin at 14:33.











raven and tommy dreamer (c) (with francine) vs. the impact players (justin credible and lance storm) (with jason and dawn marie) (for ecw world tag team title)

Raven and Tommy Dreamer dragged Justin Credible and Lance Storm outside the ring and threw them off the stage onto the merchandise tables. The four then took the match into the ring where Credible opened up Dreamer after a drop toehold onto a chair. Raven got Credible back with a drop toehold onto the same chair. Credible executed a that's incredible piledriver on Raven and Storm gave Dreamer a piledriver. Francine got involved with a low blow on Credible. Dawn Marie attacked and a catfight ensued with Francine giving Dawn Marie a bronco buster. Credible raised a Singapore cane above Francine's head but Raven "did the right thing" and saved Francine by taking the caneshot himself. Credible then nailed Raven with a that's incredible for the pin and the tag team title at 9:33.

mike awesome (c) (with judge jeff jones) vs. spike dudley (for ecw world heavyweight title)

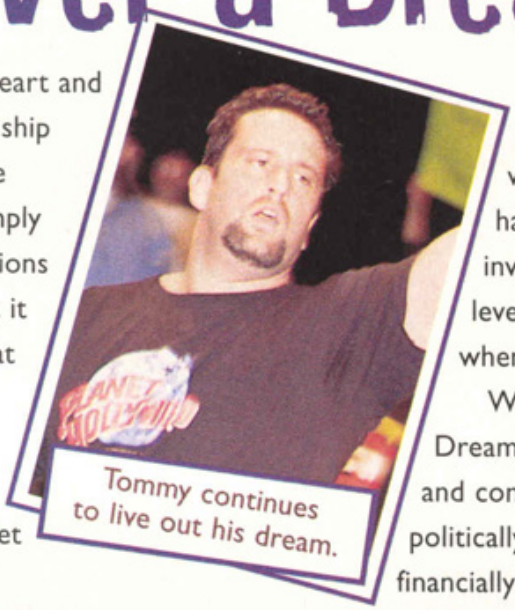
Before the match, Spike Dudley set up multiple tables around the outside of the ring. Awesome entered the ring and promptly threw Spike through one table and then through two tables stacked onto each other. Spike hit Awesome with an acid drop through a table and a few chairshots outside the ring. Awesome then speared Spike into the crowd. Back on the ring apron, Spike tried another acid drop on Awesome but he reversed it by throwing Spike through another table. Awesome avoided another acid drop and hit Spike with a clothesline. With Spike's face streaming blood and his knee injured, Awesome carried Spike to the top turnbuckle and Awesome bombed him through a table in the middle of the ring. Awesome then rolled up a lifeless Spike for the pin at 14:12. ecw

BUMPS

by Donny Laible

Forever a Dreamer

Tommy Dreamer is the heart and soul of Extreme Championship Wrestling. He's helped take ECW from the simple to the simply amazing. But for all his contributions to building the company to what it is today, it's Dreamer's health that seems to occupy those monitoring his work habits. Back, shmack. All non-family members need to butt out and let him go about his work.



Tommy continues to live out his dream.

Dreamer is a grown man. His parents are available if he wants to seek a reasonable and honest assessment of whether he should keep playing Russian roulette with his body. Since being accompanied by his father to the Night of Champions National Wrestling Alliance show in the New Jersey Meadowlands' Byrne Arena on May 29, 1984, earning his credentials to be in the ring is what the "Innovator of Violence" has been all about. Dreamer knew the risks that may make unsolicited introductions to him down the line.

The 6-foot-3, 245-pound veteran of a decade of all styles of ring wars isn't ready to begin a program of relaxing to muffled rhythms of Tibetan drums. But the buzz is that Dreamer's body, his back specifically, has already broken down – and he's only 28 years old. Has Dreamer seen too much of the great **Terry Funk** sacrificing or perhaps abusing his body? Is there so much unspoken pressure to carry on the hardcore fighting tradition that **Cactus Jack/Mankind** started in ECW that Dreamer has blinders on where his health is concerned?

Forget about suggesting tips on hot HMOs to sign on with. Dreamer, the flagship of the hardcore phenomenon that has invaded many promotions, is one levelheaded man who will know when to say when.

With **Raven** in his corner, Dreamer's work decree is to combine and conquer. He's fought physically and politically and, at times, been beaten financially and emotionally by the realities of wrestling's rules that are spelled out in the dreaded booking rooms. Dreamer will have to make many more sacrifices to remain a player in ECW.

Don't dare offer up sympathy to the former **T.D. Madison** of the infamous **Madison Brothers**, who, in 1991, was the international World Class Championship Wrestling tag team champion (**G.Q. Madison** was his tag team partner). **Taz, Saturn, Chris Benoit** and Cactus Jack are just a sampling of Dreamer's former ECW stablemates who have flown the coup for a variety of reasons. They had their reasons to accept offers from other federations.

Dreamer obviously likes where he works. Dreamer's the only remaining original wrestler of the company that made the move from Eastern to Extreme – and he's damn proud of it.

So lighten up and enjoy Dreamer in action, and don't try to predict when the bump to end all bumps may hit.

Let Tommy remain a Dreamer for as long as he wants. ecw

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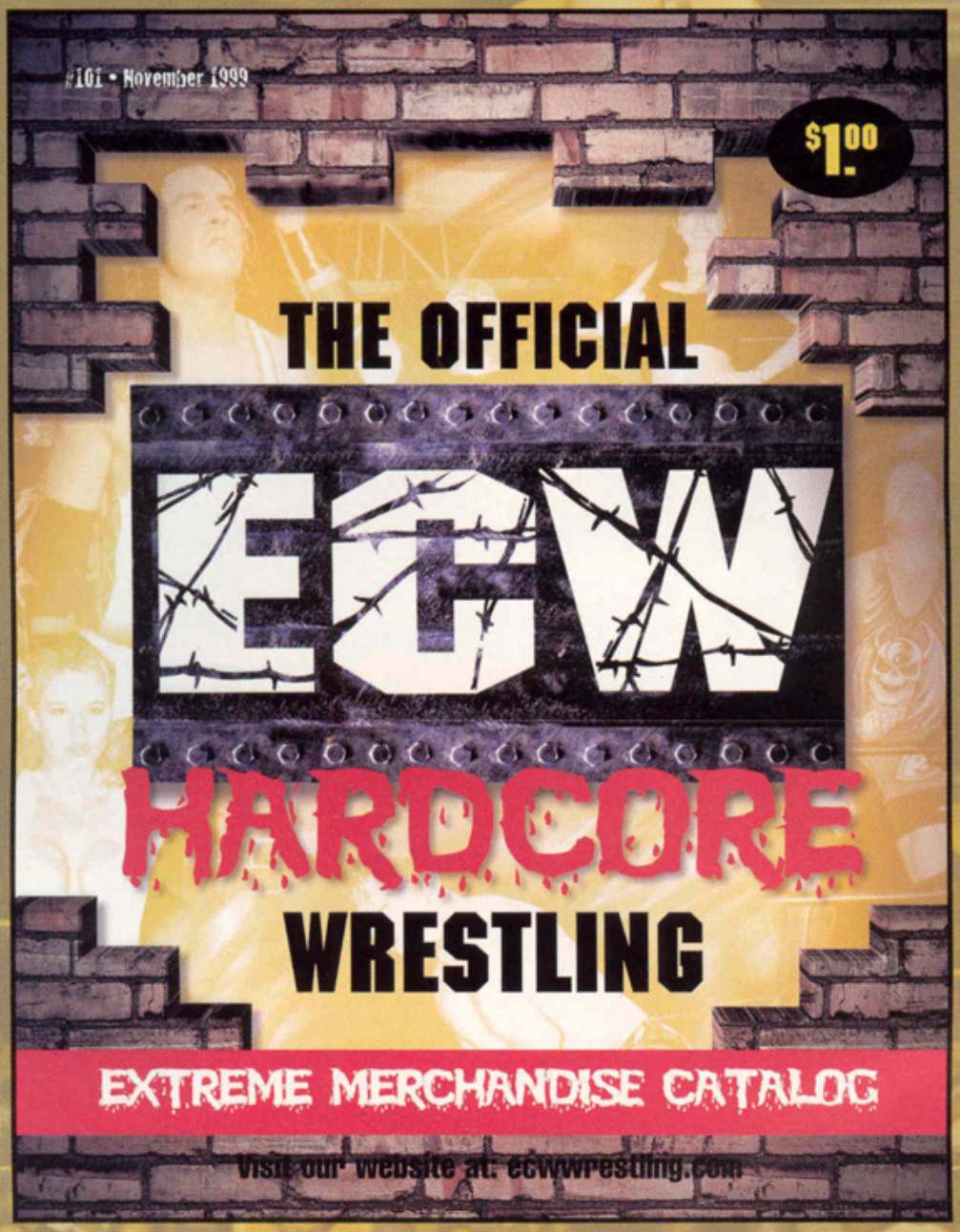

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ECW Wrestler of the Month

the WhistleBlower

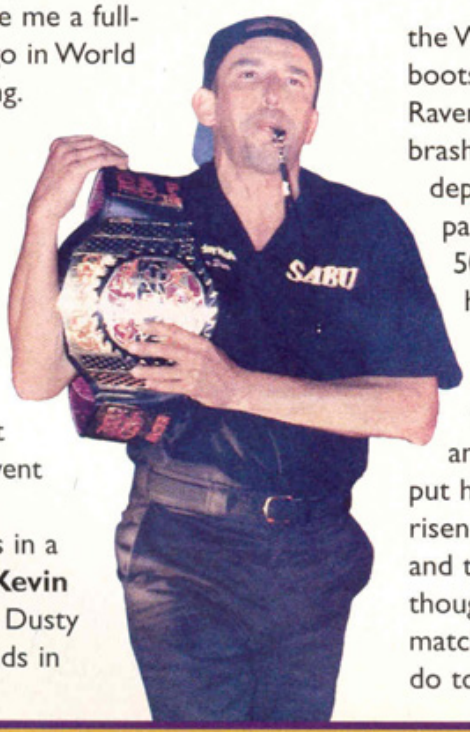
by Bill Alfonso

Leggo Your Ego

There is so much turmoil in Extreme Championship Wrestling right now. My two men, **Sabu** and **Rob Van Dam**, are at each other's throats and I can't do anything to stop them. I have to let them battle it out. Despite everything that is happening, I'm in a fantastic mood because I just saw a man who brings back a lot of great memories: **"The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes**.

I remember walking into the dressing room in the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory in Tampa, Fla., for my first full-time job in early 1980. I had just been hired because the guy before me had been fired. The night before, he had three main eventers in his car and got a flat tire and they all missed the show. He was fired on the spot. So there is a lesson for you: If you have main event guys in your car, make sure you have a spare.

Anyway, I walked into the dressing room and there was Rhodes. I was a little nervous and he said, "Are you the new referee?" and I said, "Yes I am," and we immediately clicked and became friends. He gave me a full-time job a few years ago in World Championship Wrestling. **Hiro Matsuda** and Rhodes hired me for New Japan to referee the **Ric Flair** vs. **Tatsumi Fujinami** match. I worked with Rhodes in the World Wrestling Federation, too. It was always great money everywhere I went with him. We sold out Orlando, Fla., 48 weeks in a row for his feud with **Kevin Sullivan** and his army. Dusty is one of the great minds in this business.



In this business you always have to show respect to the veterans, especially someone like Rhodes. **Steve Corino** went against this code by confronting Rhodes in Atlanta on Dec. 2, 1999. It reminded me of another young, smart-ass who came up to me after a match in Florida more than 10 years ago who we all know now as **Raven**.

Meeting Raven

I was coming back from the ring with **Barry Windham** and right before I got through the dressing room door, Raven reached over the rail and almost grabbed me. He said, "I can do whatever the wrestlers do. I can do it and I can do it better." He came off as this spoiled, rich, cocky kid. I turned the tides on him and said, "OK kid, why don't you come backstage with me?" I was going to make sure the cockiness was beat right out of him, whether it was by me or someone else in the locker room. He was intelligent enough not to come with me because he knew what was going to happen.

Next time I saw him, he's **Johnny Polo** in the WWF. In fact, we went together to buy the boots and chaps he needed for the Polo outfit. Raven is a really odd guy. One minute he can be brash and cocky, and the next he is morbid and depressed. But since that night in Florida, he has paid his dues and I consider him one of the top 50 wrestlers of all time, although Raven probably hates that because he thinks he's one of the top 10.

I think Van Dam is the most talented guy in the business and Sabu has the biggest heart and the most courage. I've never seen anybody put his body on the line every night like Sabu. I've risen to the top of my game with these two guys and they have risen to the top with me. Even though part of me wants to see the end result of a match between them, I'm scared at what they might do to each other. Either way I'm still a winner. ecw

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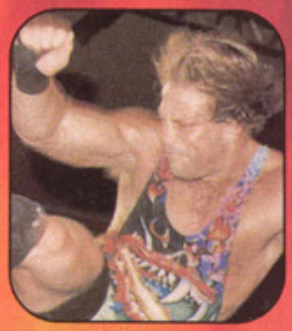

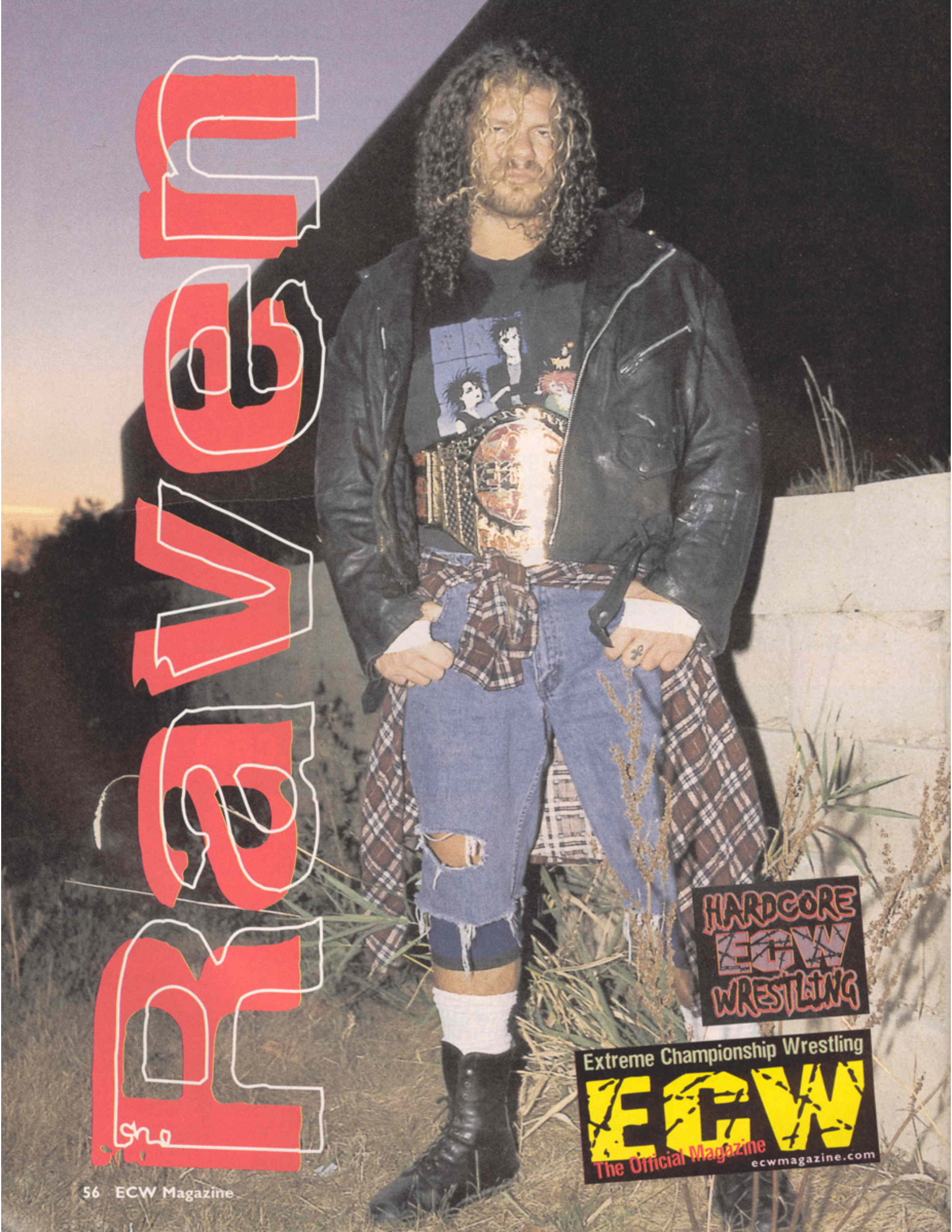
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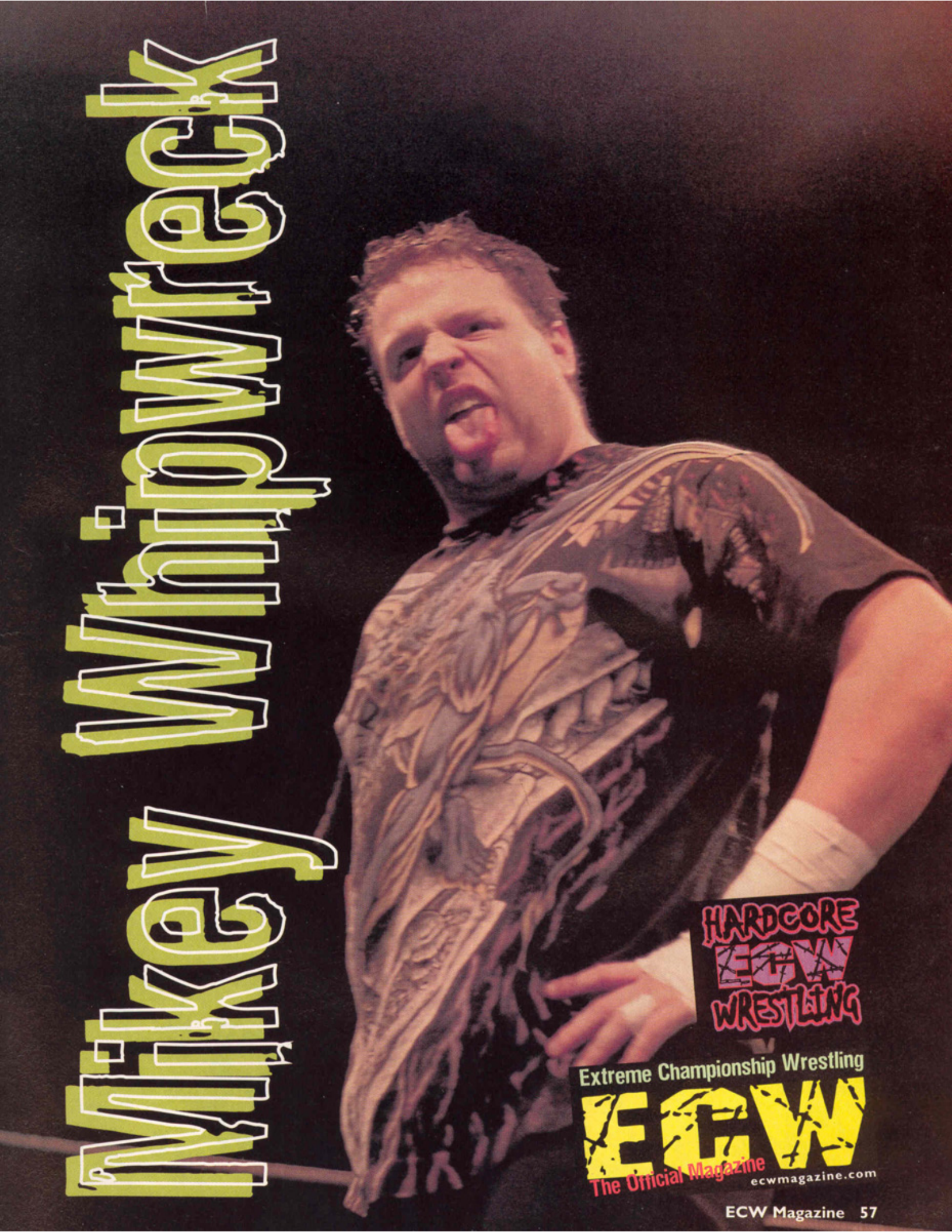

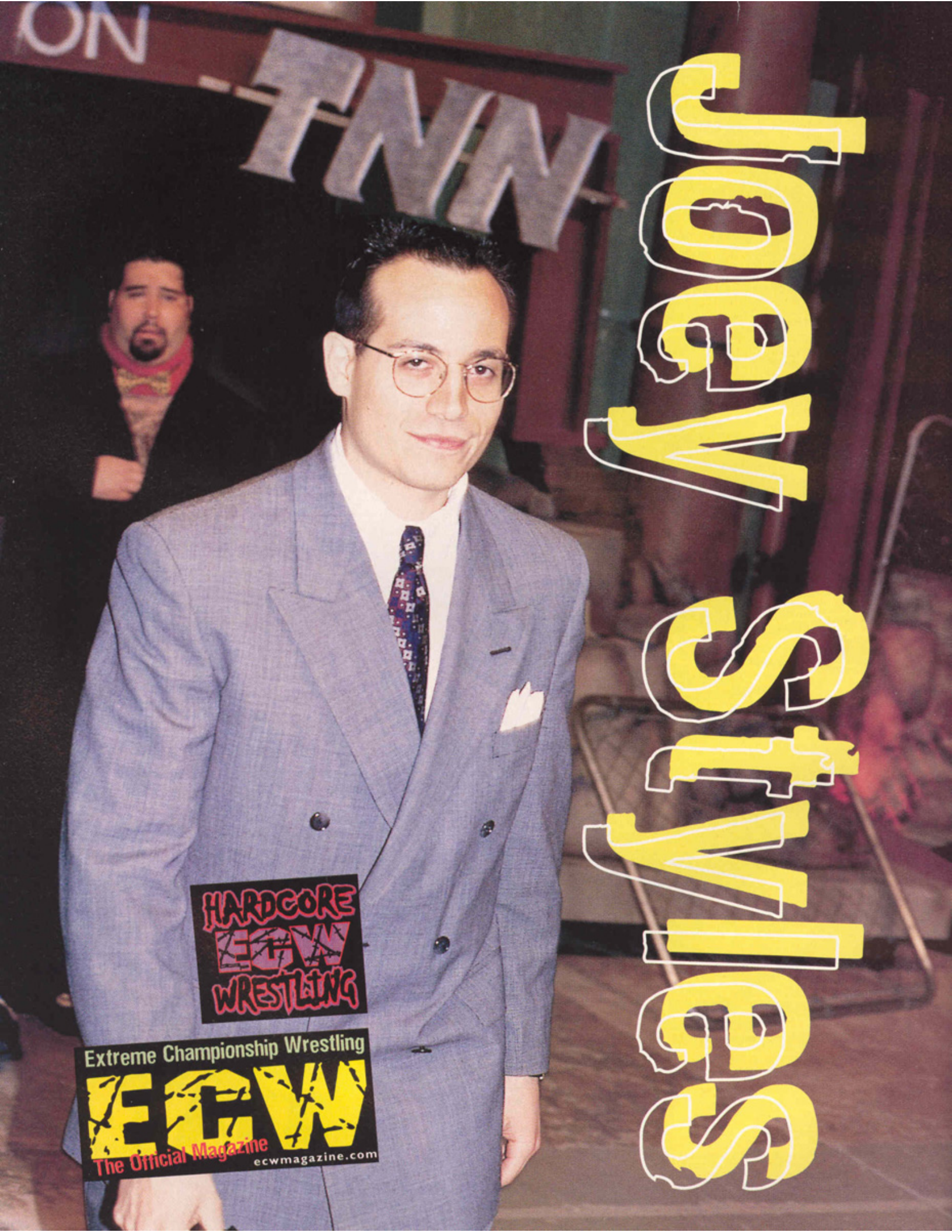
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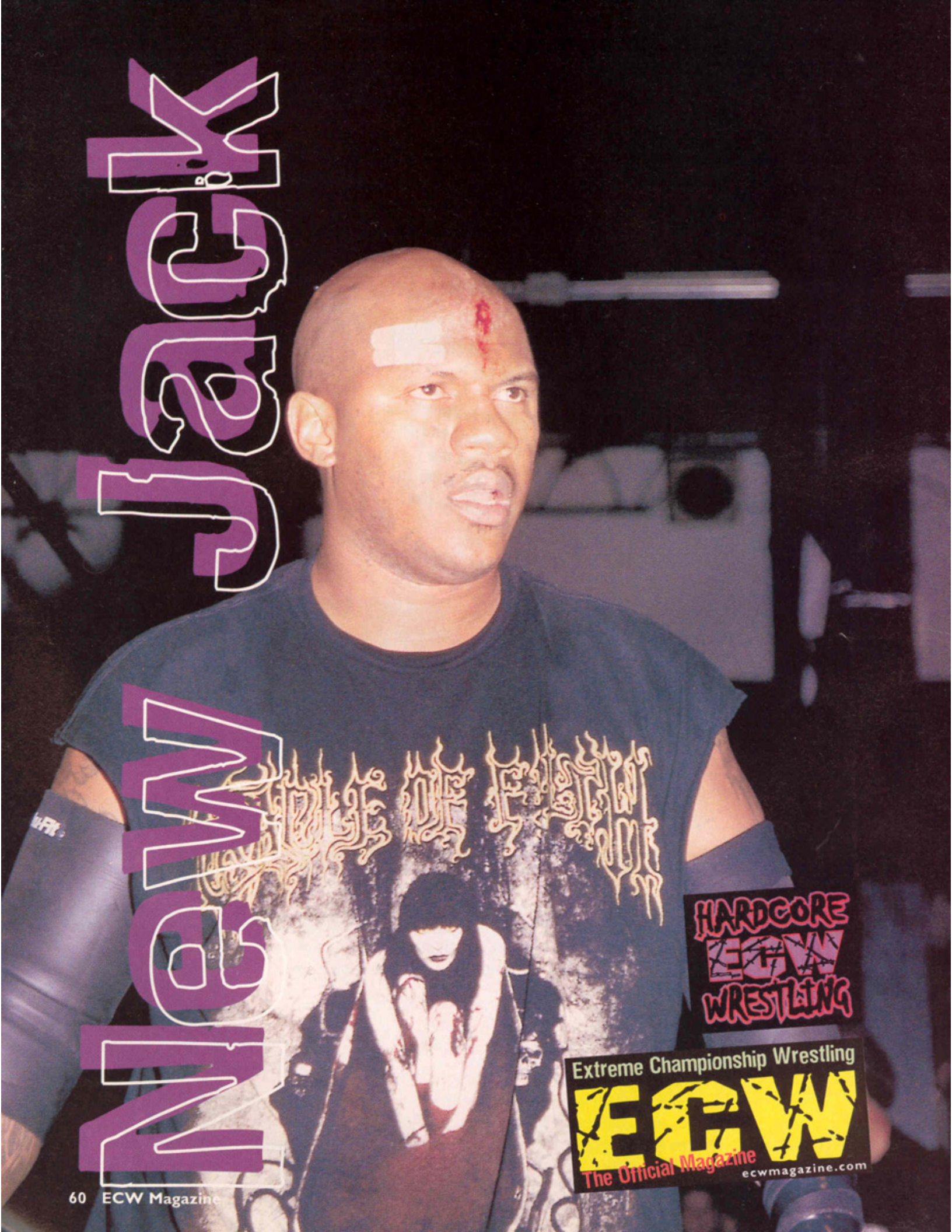
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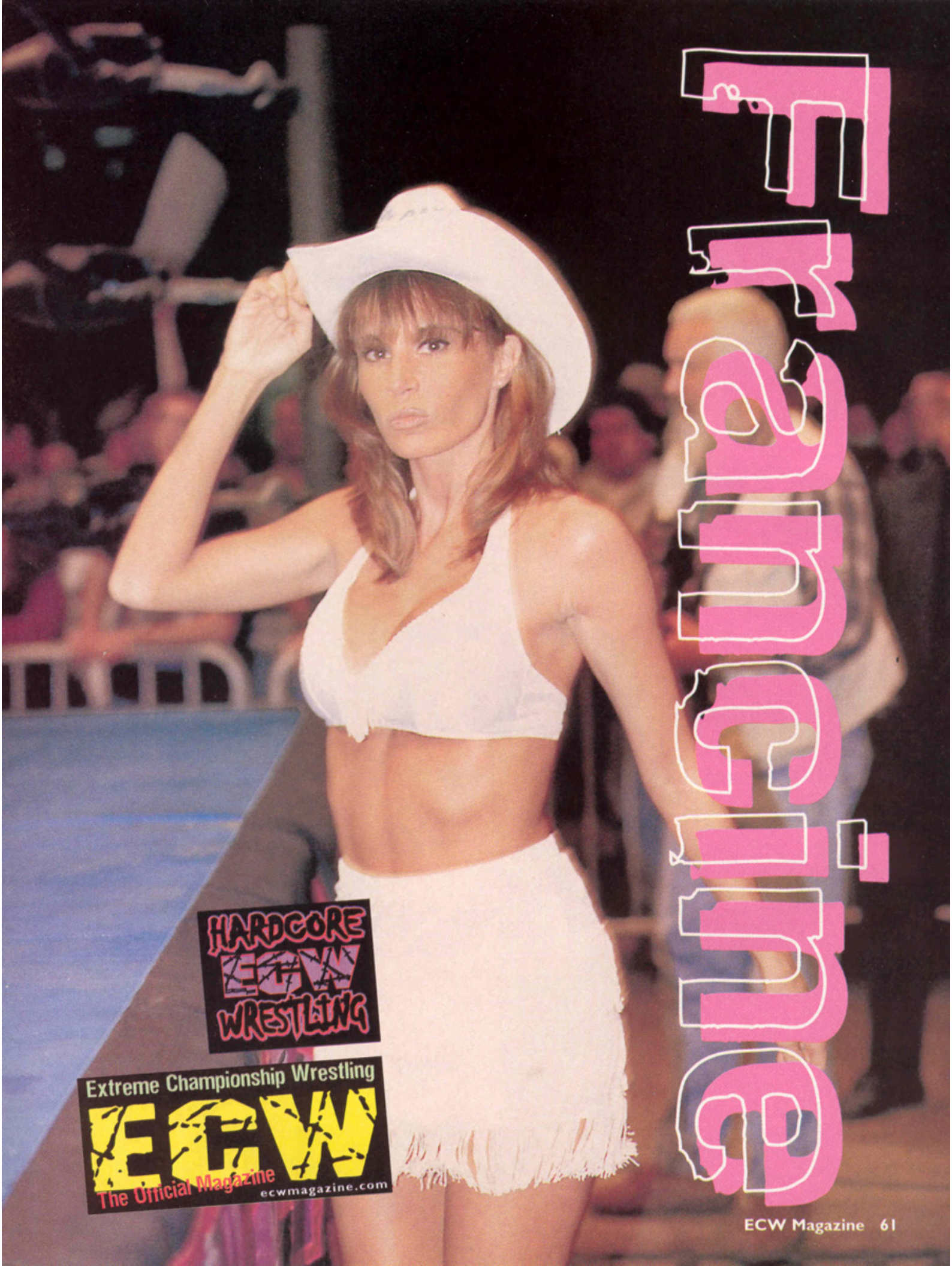
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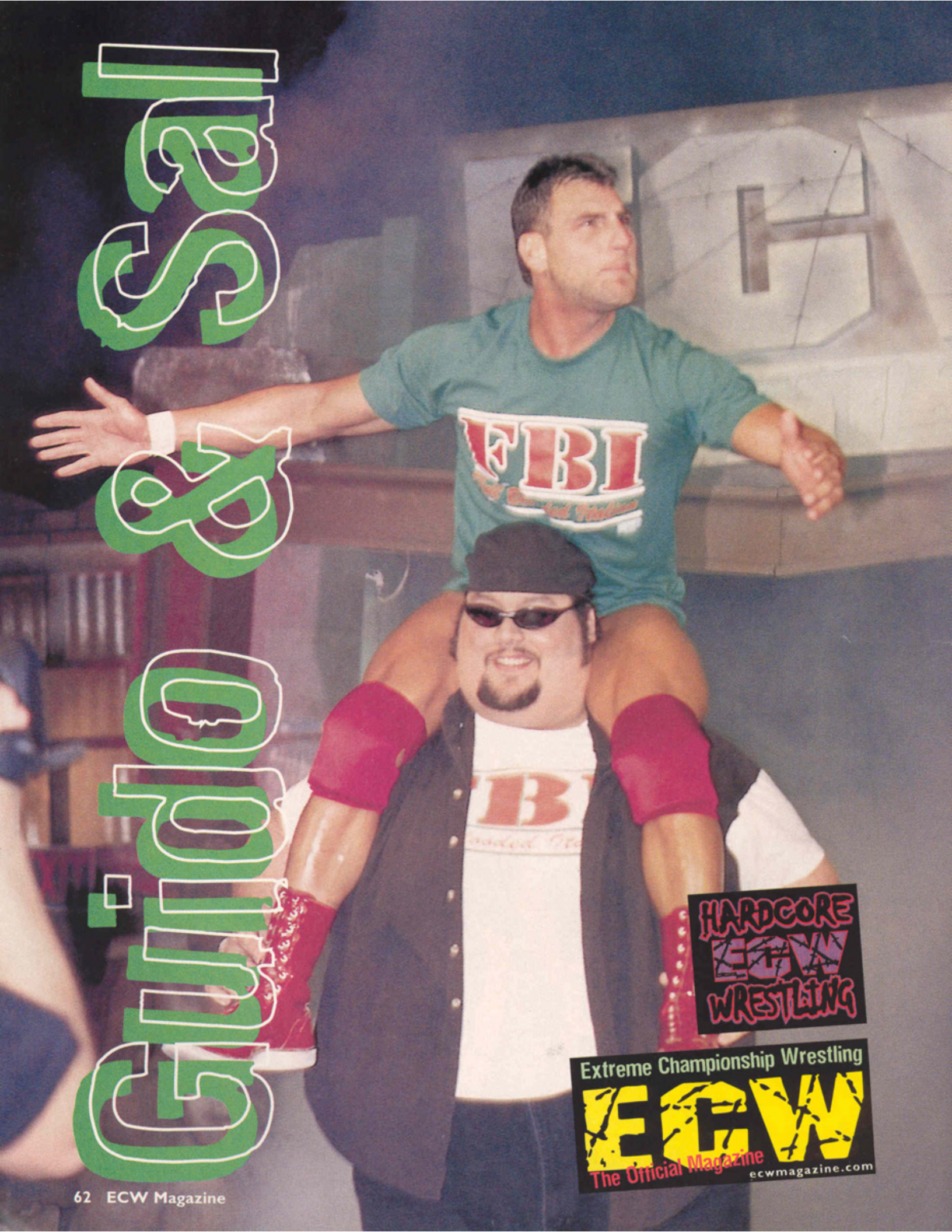
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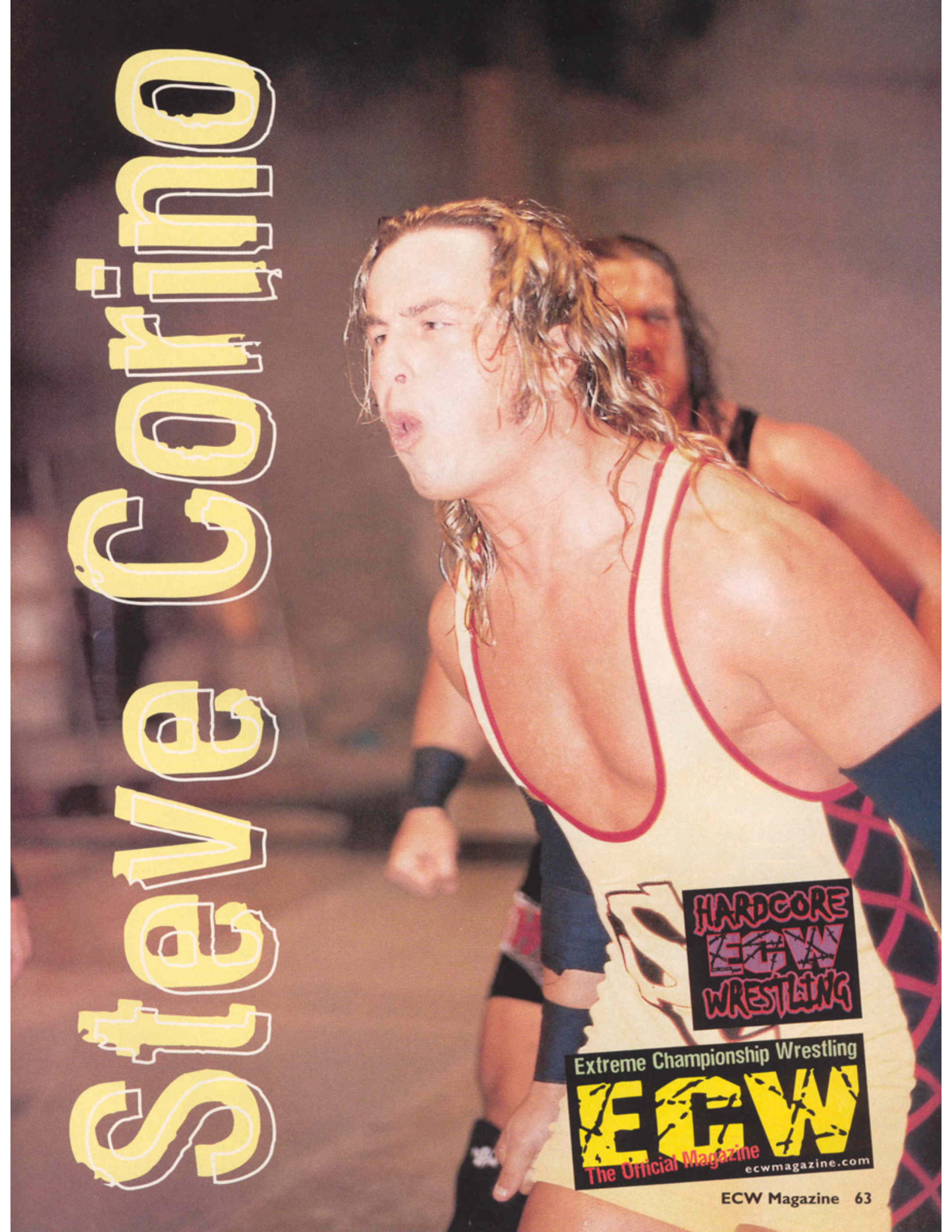

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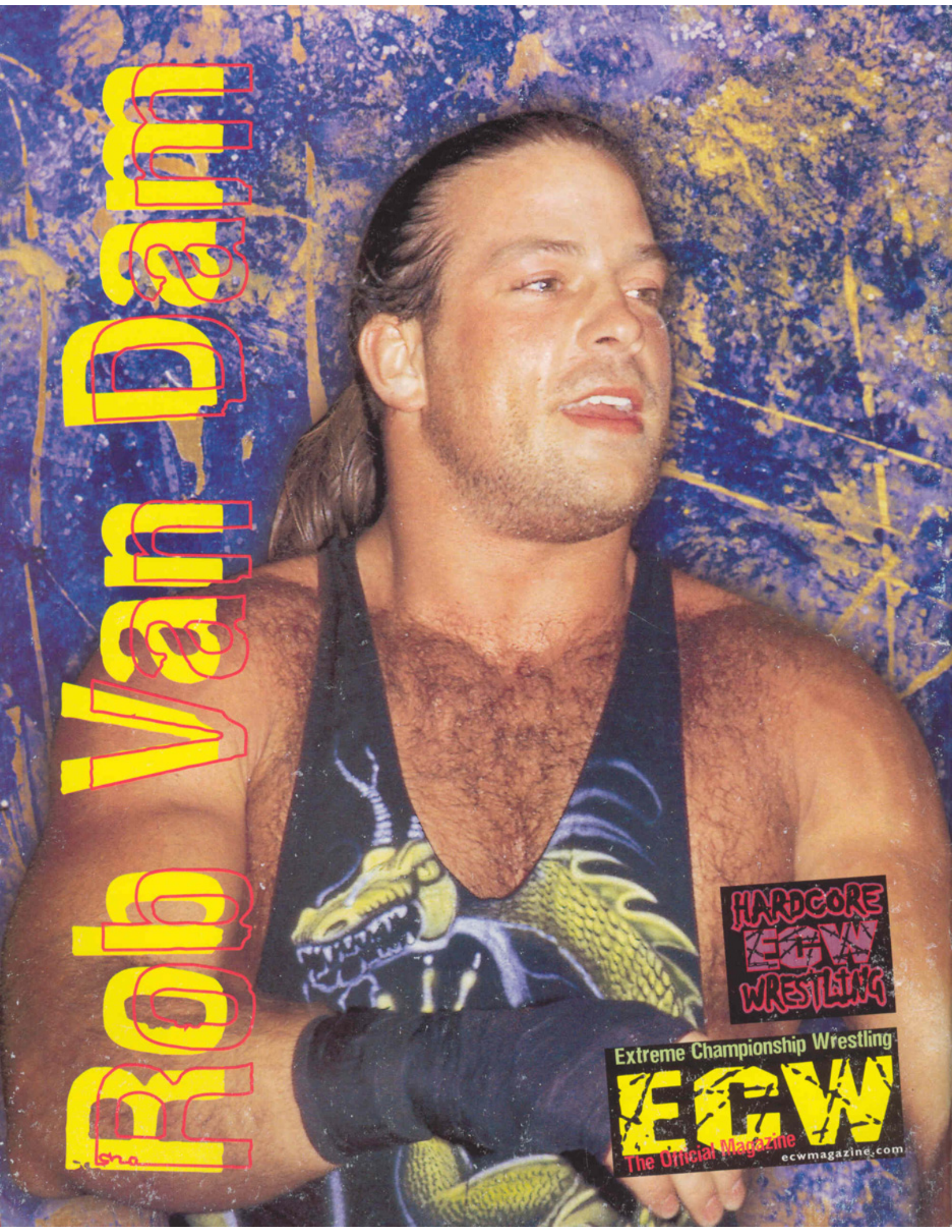
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